

## Tunisia supports charge against Israel

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia said Monday it had fresh proof that Israel was behind the killing of Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis nine days ago. Two Lebanese passports used by members of an Israeli hit-squad had been confiscated in 1984 and 1985 by Israeli authorities, the official news agency TAP said. Lebanese authorities gave the information to a Tunisian committee of inquiry into the killing of Abu Jihad, the agency said. Israeli authorities in Haifa confiscated a passport issued in the name of Nassir Rached Goriha, a Lebanese naval engineer, in 1984, TAP said. A passport issued in the name of Khalil Katim was seized by Israeli forces during a raid on the Lebanese village of Touza Feb. 22, 1985, it added. Tunisia, which announced the discovery of three passports — including these two — five days ago, said they were produced by members of the Israeli hit-squad to hire getaway cars. Last week, Tunisian officials reported one of the three passports was fraudulent.

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## Decree approves senior appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday approving Cabinet decisions on the transfer of senior government officials. In accordance with the decisions, Ghazi Rifai has been appointed director general of the Postal Service. Mu'az al-Bilbeisi will become secretary general of the Water Authority of Jordan. Mahmoud Talhoum will be secretary general of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications. Dr. Abdullah al-Jazi will be director general of the Hijaz Railway Corporation. Dr. Muhammad Khair Mamassani will be secretary general of the Ministry of Youth and Mohammad Abdul Tayyeb will become director general of the Public Transport Corporation.

## Khasawneh meets press representatives

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani al-Khasawneh Monday met with Jordan Press Association President Rakan al-Majali and members of the association's board. Issues related to the association and journalism in Jordan were reviewed during the meeting.

## Israelis sink boat off Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Military officials said the Israeli navy sank a boat off Lebanon Monday, and Israeli Radio said the two people aboard the rubber dinghy were killed. An army official said the navy vessel was on a routine patrol when it spotted the boat near the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre. The navy vessel "opened fire," sinking the boat, said the official. He would not provide further details, but Israeli Radio said the two commandos aboard were killed when the navy vessel attacked at about 3 p.m.

## Waldheim to visit 3 Gulf states

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim will make official visits to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in early June, an official source said Monday. According to the source, Waldheim will likely leave Vienna June 3 for the three-nation tour. The visits are to be officially announced soon.

## Court clears way for Duvalier case

AIX-EN-PROVENCE (AP) — Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier must stand trial in France in a civil suit charging "diversion of public funds" brought by the Haitian government, an appeals court ruled Monday. The appeals court set a trial date of June 27 after ruling France had jurisdiction in the matter. The trial will be held in the southern French city of Grasse.

## Bomb threat at Paris bourse

PARIS (AP) — Trading activity on the Paris bourse was suspended for about an hour Monday afternoon in response to a bomb threat. The bourse building houses the Paris markets for bonds, stocks, financial futures and stock options. The daily gold and foreign exchange fixings are carried out there. It was not immediately known how officials learned of the bomb threat.

## Cameroun president returned to office

YAOUNDE (R) — Camerounians voted solidly for incumbent President Paul Biya in Sunday's general elections, according to first official returns published Monday. Territorial Administration (Interior) Minister Jerome Abondo said Biya polled 100 per cent of the vote cast in half of the eight "departments" (or administrative constituencies) in which results were known at mid-day. Biya, 55, who succeeded President Amadou Ahidjo in 1982, was running unopposed for a second five-year term under a manifesto promising economic rigour and limited democracy. Voting had to be extended beyond the official closing time in several polling stations to accommodate the high turnout.

# Israel closes Arab wholesalers, detains 14 in anti-strike bid

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police Monday shut down Palestinian wholesale merchants in Arab Jerusalem who supply the occupied West Bank with essential goods, and arrested at least 14 Palestinian shopkeepers in a new effort to break the nearly-five-month-old anti-occupation uprising in the occupied territories.

The merchants were detained after defying a military order that barred them from opening stores during the three hours permitted by underground leaders of the uprising, backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "We are all with the PLO, we are not afraid, we will open," a shopkeeper said as shutters were opened at precisely 2 p.m. Ten minutes later, police on horseback swept down the Street of the Prophets outside the Old City walls, scattering a crowd of supporters as other policemen led the shopkeepers to a waiting grey bus.

## Peres outlines Labour-envisaged peace, promises voters final say

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party has promised voters a final say over any Middle East peace settlement.

The Labour Party Monday adopted a hard-line campaign platform that seemed aimed wooing rightist voters, who might deem the party too "dovish."

The document, written by Peres, promised voters a final say, through elections or a referendum, on any Middle East peace settlement, said Labour spokeswoman Michal Cohen. It also said Israel would never withdraw completely from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Cohen told the AP.

The document called on Israel to seek direct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to be preceded by an international peace conference with strictly ceremonial functions. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would not participate in the talks, according to the document.

## Security Council condemns Abu Jihad assassination without naming Israel

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council voted 14-0 Monday to condemn the assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) without naming Israel, which is widely believed to have been behind the killing.

The United States abstained from voting on the resolution. Tunisian officials and Israeli sources say Israeli government agents gunned down Abu Jihad, deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at his home in suburban Tunis Saturday last week.

## Bruised Chirac seeks to rally conservatives

PARIS (Agencies) — Premier Jacques Chirac, desperate for new votes in the election runoff against Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, began rallying conservative forces Monday but persisted in his refusal to deal with the extreme-right National Front.

Nearly all day-after political analysis focused on Chirac's need to attract substantial numbers of votes from the camp of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who won a stunning 14.4 per cent of the vote in Sunday's first-round fielding of nine (see page 8). The premier, head of the Neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party, garnered only 19.9 per cent of the vote. He was far behind the president who led all challengers with 34 per cent and was heavily favoured to win a second seven-year term in the

In nearby streets, however, shops opened as usual during the hours allowed by strike organisers and Israeli forces made no attempt to close them as shoppers thronged the area.

When Cohen was asked why the Street of the Prophets was singled out, for enforcing the new tactic, he replied: "You have to start somewhere."

But Nabil Feidy, a merchant on nearby Saladin Street, said the arrested wholesalers were supplying essential goods to the West Bank to keep the Palestinian uprising fuelled.

"They are the ones who send all kinds of flour to the refugee camps," he said.

Other Palestinians, who spoke on condition their names not be used, confirmed the arrested merchants had been supplying goods to underground committees organising the uprising, the AP reported.

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## King, National Medical Institution review health services situation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday chaired a meeting at the Royal Court attended by the National Medical Institution (NMI) board of directors.

Discussions at the meeting covered different services of the institution, which supervises work at hospitals run by the Armed Forces and the Health Ministry.

The King and the NMI board

reviewed means of promoting health services, training of personnel and unifying the country's health systems.

King Hussein gave directives on the implementation of procedures for promoting work at health centres in the Kingdom by providing them with medical teams to ensure full health care of all.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal

Court Chief Marwan al-Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleh, the presidents of the University of Jordan and Jordan University of Science and Technology and the NMI Director-General Lt-Gen. Daoud Hanania.

## Iraq successfully tests new missile; Iran talks tough in stand-off with U.S.

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday it had successfully tested a locally-made ground-to-ground missile with a range of 900 kilometres.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the head of Iraq's Military Industry Commission as telling President Saddam Hussein in a telegram that the new missile had hit a target 860 kilometres away.

The agency said that Brigadier Hussein Kamel Hassan informed Hussein that the missile, named Al Abbas, has a range of 900 kilometres.

That's far greater than the

range of the Al Hussein missiles the Iraqis were lobbying into Tehran and other Iranian cities during the latest spasm in the "war of the cities."

Iran's president, warning the United States it faces a "harsh response," called Monday on the nation's youth to go to the battlefield.

President Ali Khamenei, speaking on Tehran Radio, declared that young Iranians "should get ready to be sent to the fronts and to fight against the enemies of the Islamic revolution in a most extensive way."

He said the dispatch of "basij" or volunteers, to the front in the 7½-year-old Gulf war should be speeded up.

The Iranians have sought to intensify their mobilisation, which began last November, after Iraq recaptured the southern Fao peninsula 10 days ago and the U.S. navy gave Iran's naval forces a bloody nose in the Gulf a week ago.

The loss of Fao, seized by the Iranians in February 1986, was a military and psychological setback for Tehran.

The impact of that was doubled by the U.S. navy action in which two Iranian frigates were disabled and several other armed vessels sunk or disabled.

Iran said 44 of its sailors were

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## Assad, Arafat meet to end 5-year rift

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez al-Assad of Syria and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met Monday marking the end of a five-year rift between them.

The Assad-Arafat meeting lasted three and one-half hours, according to presidential spokesman Jibril Kourieh.

"Talks were about the Arab and Palestinian situations, in particular about the popular uprising against the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the necessity of supporting the uprising," Kourieh said.

He gave no other details. Arafat arrived Sunday for the meeting, which Palestinian officials described as the start of a new chapter in PLO-Syrian relations.

The two met briefly in Amman at the extraordinary Arab summit last November to discuss ending the so-called "camps war" in Lebanon.

The PLO leader was accompanied by Farouk Kaddoumi, who heads the PLO's political department, and Arafat's deputy in Fateh, Salah Khalaf, the spokesman said.

Five other members of the central committee of Fateh, the PLO's main component, also attended: Hani al-Hassan, Rafiq al-Natshah, Hayel Abdul Hamid, Salim al-Zanoun and Mohammad Rafeb Ghoneim, Kourieh said.

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said that the three-hour meeting "touched on all issues" Arafat was to discuss with Assad.

In addition to Habash, Monday's PLO meeting at the Rawda Guest Palace also included Nayef Hawatmeh, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP); Saleman Najib, leader of the Palestinian Communist Party, and Khalaf.

Hawatmeh told reporters that "we all agreed that this is a rare opportunity" for reconciliation with Syria, which expelled Arafat in June 1983 amid a mutiny by PLO radicals against him.

He said there was a "unanimous belief" among the Palestinians that "this opportunity would lead to the restoration of warm relations between Syria and the PLO" and bolster the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

## Kuwait to form anti-terrorist squad

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait, stung by the hijacking of one of its Jumbo jets, is to hire foreign experts to train a special anti-terrorist squad to combat sky pirates, security officials disclosed Monday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the planned 100-strong force will be attached to the Interior Ministry after a six-month training programme in Kuwait and abroad.

They gave no other details and did not identify the foreign specialists.

Most Western European countries, including Britain, France, Italy and West Germany, have elite commando units who have

been in action over the last 20 years.

Extremists hijacked the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 with 112 people aboard April 5 as it was flying from Bangkok to Kuwait.

Before the 16-day drama ended in Algiers last Wednesday, the gunmen had killed two Kuwaiti passengers.

The Kuwaiti cabinet Sunday set up a committee to investigate the hijacking. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz al-Rashed announced.

The team will be headed by Justice Minister Dhari Abdullah al-Othman and will include non-government figures, he said.

"The committee will examine circumstances, factors and security loopholes that led to the hijacking," Rashed said in a statement.

"The committee is to pinpoint administrative and technical shortcomings of the Kuwait Airways Corporation and identify those responsible, before recommending contingency action and precautions to be taken in the eventuality of a recurrence of such an incident."

The Al Seyassa and the Al Ra'i Al Aam dailies reported Monday that Kuwaiti security authorities, aided by unidentified foreign intelligence agencies, have identified the hijackers.

## Protest strike paralyses Tripoli

TRIPOLI (AP) — Tripoli was brought to a standstill Monday as citizens staged a protest strike against the country's worst car bombing in three years as the death toll rose to 70. Police said a man wounded in Saturday's blast in a crowded vegetable market in the northern port city died in hospital early Monday. Police said another 100 wounded in the blast that devastated the low-income Tabanch district remained in hospital. Schools, shops, cafes, restaurants, cinemas, banks and other businesses were closed throughout Lebanon's second largest city with a population of 850,000. The strike, on the second day of a 48-hour period of public mourning, was called by the city's coordination committee. The explosion was the bloodiest car bombing in Lebanon since March 8, 1985, when 80 people were killed and 250 wounded in an explosion in the district of Bir al Abed in south Beirut. No group has claimed responsibility for Saturday's blast in Tripoli, 80 kilometres north of Beirut. Earlier car bombings have been blamed on the sectarian enmities of Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war as well as other feuds.

## Crown Prince, Indian leaders discuss relations

NEW DELHI (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Monday met with Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and his wife. The Crown Prince conveyed to the Indian president greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and best wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Indian people.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, who arrived here earlier Monday from Bombay on a two-day official visit to New Delhi, also met with Indian Vice-President Sankar Dayal Sharma and his wife.

The Crown Prince and the vice-president reviewed Jordanian-Indian cooperation and ways of boosting bilateral cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Jordan's ambassador to India.

The Crown Prince later Monday received at his residence here the heads of Arab diplomatic missions accredited to India and briefed them on the latest developments at the Arab arena.

Prince Hassan also outlined the principles of Jordan's policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict and reiterated Jordan's call for unifying Arab ranks and strengthening Arab solidarity achieved during the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November.

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## Israeli court sentences Demjanjuk to death

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli court sentenced John Demjanjuk to death Monday after determining he was "Ivan the Terrible," a Nazi guard who became legendary for his sadistic torture of thousands of people on the way to the gas chambers.

Although the retired Ohio autoworker did not mastermind the "holocaust," Judge Zvi Tal said in announcing the sentence. "He was a chief hangerman who with his own hands killed tens of thousands with cruelty."

Applause, cheering and whistling erupted in court after the judge announced the sentence.

Tal read the charges on which Demjanjuk was convicted last week and told the court: "Therefore we sentence him for the crimes he has committed to death."

The death penalty was last carried out in Israel in 1962, when Adolf Eichmann, one of the architects of Nazi Germany, was hanged.

The sentence will be automatically subject to appeal before the Israeli supreme court.

The court deliberated for three hours after hearing Demjanjuk, fighting for his life, proclaim his innocence in a final plea in his native Ukrainian.

Brought into the courtroom in a wheelchair to hear the sentence, Demjanjuk shouted in Hebrew: "I am innocent."

After the sentence was announced, spectators, including survivors of Nazi camps, chanted in unison: "Death, death, death."

Demjanjuk's son, John Jr., told the AP his father would appeal the conviction.

## Kabul offers to withdraw troops from border areas

KABUL (AP) — President Najibullah, faced with the impending withdrawal of Soviet troops who have been supporting his forces against guerrilla attacks, offered Monday to withdraw the Afghan army from posts near Pakistan's border.

"We are ready to create a non-military line" (zone) if Pakistan and the Mujahadeen agree, Najibullah told an assembly of three small parties loyal to his government.

Speaking at the official opening of celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Afghan revolution that installed a Soviet-backed administration, the president portrayed the offer as a way to enable Afghan refugees to return home.

However, this appeared to be little more than a face-saving acknowledgement of the difficulties his army is having against onslaughts by the Pakistan-based and U.S.-supplied Mujahadeen.

On Sunday, Najibullah confirmed a Mujahadeen claim that the Afghan army had been pushed out of Barikot, a key post on the Pakistani frontier.

Barikot, 240 kilometres north-east of Kabul, controls a major road leading into Afghanistan from Pakistan. By capturing Barikot, the Mujahadeen can bring men and supplies straight across the border.

Brigadier Abdullah Haq Ulumi said the Afghan army would withdraw from "the points that are needed — several dozen if necessary."

Ulumi heads the Afghan army department of the central committee of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

A foreign diplomat warned that Mujahadeen victories near the Pakistani border should not be construed as signs the Soviet-backed government is close to collapsing.



# NAF adds 193 more needy families to list

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last month added 193 needy families to a list of thousands of poor families receiving monthly financial assistance; and spent a total of JD 750 on 13 emergency cases, according to NAF's Director General Khalil Al Faouri.

Faouri said at present the NAF offers monthly payments to eight thousand needy families and is financing 602 vocational projects to help find occupation for heads of some of these families.

The NAF last month spent a total of JD 596 on providing artificial limbs to eight people, conducted studies on 25 cases of poor people requesting free medical treatment in Al Hussein Medical Centre, 21 for treatment on Jordan University Hospital, and 32 in other government hospitals, Faouri said.

He said that needy families receive JD 40 a month from the NAF which also spends JD 3,000 on financing the upkeep of senior persons at homes for the aged.

Last month, Faouri said, that

the NAF spent a total of JD 2,139,344 last year on more than 9,000 needy families in Jordan.

He said NAF's resources were confined to the Jordanian treasury which offered the fund JD 2.2 million during 1987 to help the fund operate its projects.

"The NAF has been operating for 19 months, but its services have been reaching needy people around the country through NAF centres," Faouri said.

Upon its inception in October 1986, the NAF announced that the government had allocated JD 1.5 million to provide assistance to the poor and that this would be augmented by donations from various individuals, voluntary societies and organisations.

Meanwhile, in Mafrqa a meet-

ing was held Monday to discuss means of handling pockets of poverty and helping needy families in the Mafrqa governorate.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of the Mafrqa governor, was attended by directors of social development, Awqaf and NAF's offices in the city as well as representatives of charitable societies and other local officials.

The role of the Zakat Fund, the NAF and other charitable institutions in providing assistance to the poor was discussed.

In addition, the meeting discussed the implementation of projects included in the governorate's five-year plan for generating income to a larger number of families, to help stem the causes of poverty in the region.

At the of the meeting, it was announced that three committees have been formed to conduct a wide-scale study on the pockets of poverty in Mafrqa; and other committees are still to be set up later to conduct similar tasks in other areas.



W. GERMAN DELEGATION: Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali meets in Amman Monday with a delegation representing the West German Interior Ministry. Discussion covered Jordanian-West German cooperation in

police work and the prospect of Jordan benefitting from West German expertise in the maintenance of machinery, in the communications systems and workshops. The meeting was attended by Majali's assistants for maintenance and general planning (Petra photo)

## National heritage, book festival opens tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — A festival of national heritage and Islamic books and publications will be opened in Amman Wednesday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The festival, which will be held at the main square near the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman, has been organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for the benefit of the public during the holy month of Ramadan.

The festival will include an exhibition of books, Arabic handwriting, reliefs, photographs and Islamic documents as well as a

special wing for children's books and toys, film shows, national songs and dances by children, a "reading tent" for adults and children and a selected cultural programme for children.

The festival will also include a special wing for selling books and ornaments and another for local popular Arabic sweets and drinks.

On the occasion the Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions will be open for the public free of charge, according to an announcement here Monday.

It said that the Armed Forces brass bands will take part in the festival.

## Sunny days are here again

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology expects a long stretch of sunny days following the rains that fell in different parts of the Kingdom over the past few days.

A department spokesman said a depression which had brought about the cold weather and the rain has now moved eastwards and that the weather will be

stabilising gradually.

According to a report in the Al Dustour Arabic daily the rain water flooded at least nine homes of the Abu Nuseir housing estate, on the outskirts of the capital.

It said that Civil Defence Department teams were called to the scene to pump away the water, which flooded the homes causing some material damage.

## Ministry says meat shortage over

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Supply officials have stressed that the Jordanian markets will, from now on, have sufficient quantities of fresh imported meat following the shortage over the past eight days, according to a report in the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

The report said the shortage was due to an incident in which the importer was found to be cheating on the standard of meat in violation of his contract with the Ministry of Supply.

The report said the importer was found to have brought into

the country 3,600 heads of sheep (frozen meat) 10 days ago and was trying to offer it to the market as fresh meat.

The meat has been seized, and the ministry has forced the contractor to slaughter live local sheep to make up for the required quantities, and to sell the meat in the market for the same price of imported meat, the paper noted.

It also said that the process took some time to complete and rendered the market short of sufficient quantities of fresh meat. According to the paper, Jordan requires at least 40 tonnes

of meat a day, but in the month of Ramadan consumption normally increases, prompting the ministry to arrange for the importation of additional quantities.

The report pointed out that last Thursday the ministry's slaughter houses distributed 82 tonnes of mutton and continued the process at the average rate of 62 tonnes a day.

But a decision has been taken now to increase the quantities by 17 tonnes a day to make up for any shortage on the market, making the total amount 57 tonnes a day.

## Aqaba airport to get new terminal

AQABA (Petra, J.T.) — Airport facilities in Aqaba will be modernised and expanded to cope with the increasing volume of tourist groups visiting the port city, and in a bid to stimulate tourism in general. Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here Monday.

Work on a new terminal building for the airport is underway and is expected to be completed by August 1988, the minister said at a meeting with the Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni, representatives of the tourism sector and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Once the new terminal has been completed it is expected to help ease the problem of congestion, which the airport is encountering from time to time, the minister noted.

Haj Hassan urged all concerned parties to coordinate their operations in a manner to enable Aqaba airport to cope with any number of tourist groups, and to provide tourists and visitors to Jordan with all possible convenience.

According to Haj Hassan the total cost of the new terminal is expected to reach JD 370,000. He said the building will be assigned for departure while the old building will be used for arrivals as of August.

For his part Ajlouni called on the concerned authorities to finalise arrangements and preparations for meeting the increase in the tourism traffic in the Kingdom.

"Thanks to this country's good reputation, its archaeological sites, security and stability the Kingdom is now witnessing a noticeable revival of its tourism industry, which requires better organisation and proper services

for the visitors," Ajlouni noted. The meeting discussed a number of proposals and ideas pertaining to travel procedures, organising evening trips for tourists from Aqaba to Amman, improving the efficiency of the tourism facilities at the airport.

The two ministers later inspected the work on the new terminal and were briefed on the stages so far completed at the new project site.

Ajlouni last week met with tour organisers of groups from Finland, who had been operating weekly air trips from Helsinki to Aqaba in the past winter season.

He reviewed with them the success of the operations and announced that weekly trips from Helsinki to Aqaba will be increased to become two or three flights a week in the next winter season, which starts in October 1988.

He said each flight will bring in 200 Finnish tourists to Aqaba and the southern regions of the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Tourism will be organising national folkloric activities in Aqaba in the coming season to attract visitors from various parts of the country.

According to the minister 100,000 foreign tourists from Europe and Asia and 270,000 from the Gulf states visited the Kingdom in 1987, mostly during the summer.

Earlier, Haj Hassan chaired a meeting at the Jordanian Ports Corporation and heard a report by its director on the corporation's projects, future needs for expansion and facilities to enhance the work of loading and unloading.

He also chaired a meeting to discuss facilitating the exportation of Iraqi products via Aqaba.

## Hmoud, JAEA president discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Monday met with the president of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) to discuss the association's role in promoting its members' activities.

They also discussed the association's role in bolstering cooperation between the engineers and the Ministry of Agriculture to contribute to the national agricultural development.

The meeting follows a statement by the minister in which he defined regulations governing the distribution of Ministry of Agriculture's subsidy to local farmers, who apply the agricultural patterns system in the rainfed and irrigated regions of the Kingdom.

According to these regulations, farmers entitled to subsidy and financial assistance are those growing eggplants and marrows, who will receive JD 10 for every dunum of their land planted with these two crops in the Jordan Valley's irrigated areas, and JD 15 for every dunum of their land planted with these two crops in the high regions.

Official documents should be supplied by farmers supporting their abidance by the regulations and proving their claims to the subsidy, according to the regulations.

They also said that farmers abiding by the regulations but tend to increase the area of land grown with the two crops, in violation of the agricultural patterns system, will not be offered any assistance.



IFTAR FOR JOURNALISTS: The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Sunday organised an Iftar Banquet for Jordanian journalists. Journalists from the local newspapers attended the banquet.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**EDUCATION CONFERENCE:** The cabinet has agreed to Jordan host the annual conference of the Education Ministers Islamic states in Amman on November 12. The four-day conference is sponsored by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

**ZAWAIDEN MEETS ENVOY:** Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh Monday reviewed with Pakistani Ambassador in Amman Lt.-Gen. Saghir Hussein Syed bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of housing and reconstruction.

**ABANDA TO VISIT CHINA:** Department of Meteorology Director General Ali Abanda will pay a 10-day visit to China on May 6 for talks with Chinese officials on cooperation in the field of meteorology. During the visit Dr. Abanda will also acquaint himself with activities and work of China's Meteorological Department.

**MAN GETS 8 YEARS:** The military court has sentenced Sami Mohammad Jameel Darwish for eight years imprisonment for trafficking heroin. The sentence has been endorsed by the military governor.

**22 TRAINING COURSES:** A total of 22 training courses in various fields were held by the Jordan Institute of Management during the first three months of this year. Some 330 participants from 227 various companies and corporations took part in these courses.

**TRIPLETS BORN:** Triplets were born to a woman Sunday by a caesarian operation at Zarqa Government Hospital and the triplets were reported to be in good condition.

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15:30 ..... Religious programme  
15:50 ..... Arabic story  
16:15 ..... Arabic play  
16:30 ..... Cooking programme  
17:10 ..... Religious series  
17:20 ..... Health and Fasting (Arabic)  
18:00 ..... Arabic comedy  
18:50 ..... Ramadan stories  
19:00 ..... Religious programme  
19:35 ..... Varieties  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
21:30 ..... News in Arabic  
22:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Arabic series  
23:30 ..... Arabic film

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... des chiffres et des lettres  
18:30 ..... Lucky Luke (cartoon)  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Le Monde Selon Georges (documentary)  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... No place like Home  
21:10 ..... Stand by — Light! Camera! Action!  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Murder She Wrote  
23:10 ..... Rich Man, Poor Man

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10:00 ..... News Summary  
10:10 ..... Just a Minute  
11:00 ..... Good Old Days  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:05 ..... 30 Minute Theatre  
13:00 ..... News Summary  
13:05 ..... Pop Session Contd.  
14:00 ..... News Bulletin  
14:15 ..... Instruments  
14:30 ..... 30 Minute Theatre  
15:00 ..... Concert Hour  
16:00 ..... News Summary  
16:05 ..... Instruments  
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### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1233 KHz

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Rhythms of the Sun 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 News Ideas 08:40 Turning over New Leaves 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Counterpoint 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 News About Britain 14:15 Waveguide 14:25 A Letter from Scotland 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:15 Multitrack 1: Top 20 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network U.K. 16:45 Recording of the Week 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News 17:45 Rhythms of the Sun 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 A Jolly Good Show

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of photographs of Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

★ The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators. There is also a continuous showing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition.

★ Book and Computer exhibition at Zarqa Community College.

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

#### FILM

★ Video film entitled "Heimat" (German) at 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

#### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre ..... Tel. 6410267  
American Centre ..... 644371  
American Centre library ..... 641520  
British Council ..... 6361478  
French Cultural Centre ..... 637009  
Goethe Institute ..... 641903  
Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 644203  
Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 620409  
Turkish Cultural Centre ..... 639777  
Haya Arts Centre ..... 665195  
Hassan Youth City ..... 6671816  
Y.W.C.A. ..... 661793  
Y.W.M.C.A. ..... 662351  
Amman Municipal Library ..... 637111  
Univ. of Jordan Library ..... 843555

#### MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.  
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also movies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.  
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00

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## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 3300-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

#### ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:10 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
11:10 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)  
11:20 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:35 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:55 ..... London, Cairo (BA)

#### OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

12:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
13:30 ..... Moscow (SU)  
14:30 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
15:45 ..... Tripoli (LY)  
16:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
17:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
18:05 ..... Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
23:00 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES

#### ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Vienna, New York (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
23:00 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

### OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
14:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
15:00 ..... Moscow (SU)  
15:50 ..... Bucharest (RO)  
16:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)  
17:40 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
18:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
18:55 ..... Damascus (AZ)  
20:30 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
21:15 ..... Dubai (EK)

#### MONEY EXCHANGE

#### Local selling rates in Jds

Belgian franc ..... 95.4 / 96.9  
Dutch guilder ..... 177.8 / 180.5  
French franc ..... 58.7 / 59.6  
Italian lira ..... 26.8 / 27.2  
Japanese yen (for 100) ..... 267.4 / 272.0  
Swedish crown ..... 56.9 / 57.7  
Swiss franc ..... 241.1 / 245.8  
U.S. sterling pound ..... 629.3 / 640.2  
U.S. dollar ..... 334 / 338.9  
W. German mark ..... 194.1 / 202.7

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:23 ..... Fajr  
05:48 ..... Sunrise (Sunrise) Duhr  
12:33 ..... Asr  
16:14 ..... Maghreb  
19:19 ..... Maghreb  
20:44 ..... Isha

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

An increase in temperature is expected. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and sea calm.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

### EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate ..... 891228  
Amman Civil Defence ..... 198 199  
Civil Defence Libed ..... 271593, 273131  
Civil Defence Orweineh ..... 770733  
Civil Defence Derr Alla ..... 57306  
Ambulance ..... 193, 775111  
Amman downtown fire brigade ..... 198  
First aid ..... 630541  
Blood Bank ..... 778303  
Civil Defence rescue ..... 661111  
Fire headquarters ..... 6220973  
Police rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Police headquarters ..... 639141  
Traffic police ..... 8963901  
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881  
Municipal water complaints ..... 77125-8  
Queen Alia Int'l Airport (08) 3333000

### GENERAL

Jordan Television ..... 773111/19  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111/19  
Ministry of Tourism ..... 643111  
Hotel complaints ..... 66412  
Price complaints ..... 661176  
Telephone information ..... 12  
Jordan and Middle East calls ..... 10  
Overseas calls ..... 662351  
Repair service ..... 11

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Tayyar Khader ..... 606857  
Dr. Abbas Hakim ..... 891256  
Dr. Hani Haddadin ..... 777751  
Dr. Fakher Belbasi ..... 643112  
First aid ..... 630541  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778330  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairook pharmacy ..... 626730  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649495  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637001

### HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 644281/6  
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 64171-4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muscher Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/27  
Al-Abi, Abdali ..... 641646  
Italian, Al-Mutajeen ..... 77101-3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 862235/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

### TAXIS:

Karakal taxi ..... 666761  
Grand Palace taxi ..... 667079  
Furat taxi ..... 685186  
Rashed taxi ..... 622023  
Commodore taxi ..... 686186  
Tayche taxi ..... 662351  
Faisal taxi ..... 622151  
San Rock taxi ..... 813801

### IRBID:

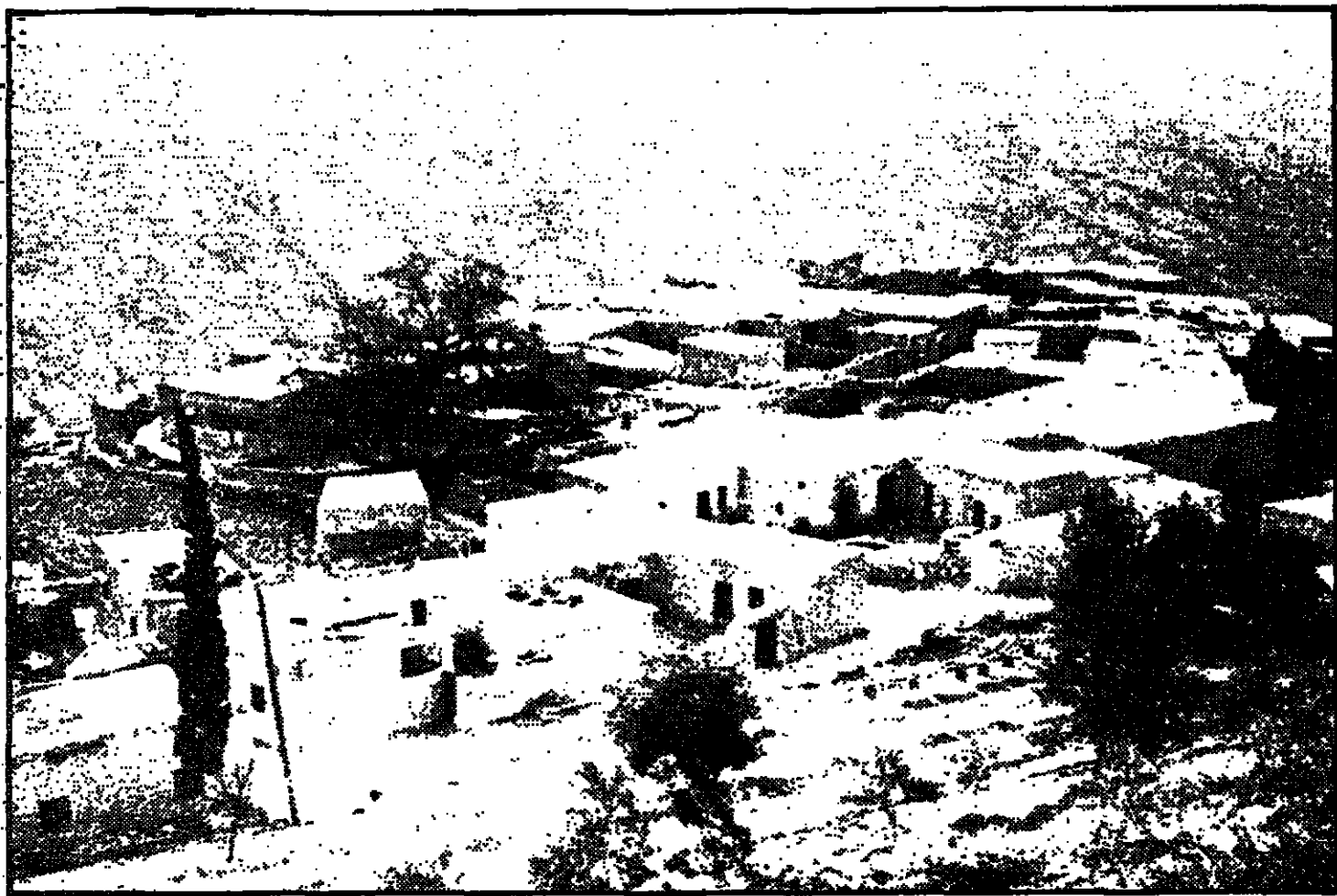
Dr. Mahmud Khali ..... 276897  
Al-Shara pharmacy ..... 275825

### ZARQA:

Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein ..... 985000  
Khalid pharmacy ..... 985417

## MARKET PRICES





A view from the east showing the big tree at the entrance of Bathnan village.



Al Sidreh, the big tree of Bathnan

## 'Breakfast was olive oil with za'tar'

The Jordan Times intends, over the next few weeks, to serialise the book, *Notes on Village Architecture in Jordan*, by Ammar Khammash. Khammash's book was part of the requirement for his Bachelor degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Photos and sketches appearing with these articles were first exhibited at Southwestern in March 1986. The publication of the book was funded by The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

### The site

THE village of Bathnan sits on a hill on the northeastern side of Wadi El Karak. The landscape created by the Wadi gets steeper and more difficult the more it approaches the Dead Sea, and on the last bit of reasonably usable land the village of Bathnan represents the only traditional living site on the northeastern side of the wadi. The land after Bathnan in the direction of the Dead Sea is extremely difficult to cultivate or to settle. The only trace of Bathnan is seen at Khirbet Zabuba.

The mountain northeast of Bathnan, Jabel Al Habashneh, acts as a wall that rises to separate the area of Wadi El Karak from the area of Wadi Ebn Hamad. This physical barrier makes Wadi El Karak a well-defined and independent part of Wadi El Karak. Bathnan on one side and Mumia on the other side of the wadi. The two villages have a similar altitude of 500-550 metres, and their land meets at the bottom of the wadi. Bathnan has two springs, both to the south, less than 500 metres from the village. The wadi also has a permanent water flow but its banks are too steep for utilisation by the people of the village.

### The village

Bathnan has a unique layout. It has a well defined perimeter created by the arrangement of the houses facing inward and resembling what could be seen from the outside as a village wall. Seen from the northern side of the village, this elevation is formed by the back walls of the houses that are constructed on the edge of the flat top of the hill. The

houses have access to the inside with courtyards in front that separate them from the only walkway of the village. This walkway begins at the big "Sidreh" tree where the main village entrance is located and ends with a secondary "back door" that leads to farm land. The main entrance, being well defined with an extraordinary tree, becomes the gathering place for the villagers, the tree's limbs spanning the seating area where men and women gather to talk. Walking down the walkway that runs in the centre of the village, one passes by wooden gates that lead to the courtyards. Few houses are adjacent to the walkway, the majority being at the perimeter of the village. The walls of the courtyards are high enough so that one cannot see what is inside. The walkway, which runs in a nearly straight line, suddenly makes a right angle and stops at the steep slope of the Wadi El Karak. At the left side of this end of the walkway is the house of Abu Abd El Razzag Al Jaafreh, with an "ullieh" where I stayed for some days in March, 1985.

From the main walkway one enters the courtyards through a wooden gate that keeps the goats inside. Inside one can see the entrances to the houses and to structures that are specially constructed for sheltering animals. These stables are made of one vault that spans 3 to 4 metres and is 5 to 6 metres deep. The entrance of the vault is totally open in the full shape of the vault, and in the sides are niches filled with food for the animals — usually horses, donkeys and cows.

Also in the courtyard one often finds a ramp leading to the roofs of the house. This ramp is called "hammaleh" and is used to provide access to the roofs. The roofs of the houses meet to form a single roof which covers a large

part of the village. It is often easier to use the roof of the village to go from one courtyard to another than it is to go by an exterior route. On the rooftop of Bathnan, one feels as if the whole village is made of subterranean dwellings; since the roof's finish is of earth, it is hardly distinguishable from the natural landscape. This common roof allows for getting large amounts of hay and grain into the storage units of the houses. Grain is brought up and poured through an opening in the roof called "rozana" or "rozan". The roof of the village is also used for drying food and for sleeping in the summertime. In Bathnan one family had a tent built on top of their house to provide a lofty place for the family to enjoy fresh air and distant views.

Bathnan is growing to the east away from the old village and along the road. The traditional Bathnan is still in perfect shape. No cars enter the village since the road stops at the entrance where the big tree allows clearance only for people and goats. The new constructions are totally irrelevant to the traditional environment. They represent the result of a new environment created by the different human needs of today and the present technological ways of satisfying these needs.

### The Big Tree

This is probably the biggest tree in the Karak area. It is called Al Sidreh, Sidr being the local name of this kind of tree (*Zizyphus spina christi*). The tree is tall; it represents a supernatural power. No one should break off any of its branches. One of the villagers said, "The Sidreh hurts whoever cuts one stick from it; a disease or a misfortune will happen to him." The wall just below its big trunk has two niches that, until five years ago, were the place for candles and incense put there every Thursday night by Hajjeh Zenat Al Jaafreh. The candles and the incense are signs of respect and admiration of the wadi; they are not supposed to be taken away by anyone. According to Kamal Abd Al Ghani Sleiman Al Jaafreh (March 21, 1985, Bathnan):

"One day in the evening of a Thursday, Um Mohammad (Al Hajjeh Zenat) put two candles and one incense stick in the niches; then a man came and removed the candles and the incense. The following day he became extremely sick, couldn't move or talk, and on Saturday he was put under the tree and stayed there for fourteen days till he got cured. Later he described people in white with green headresses who used to come and stay beside him till the morning. The name of this man was Atallah Salman, and that was twenty years ago, in the sixties."

On Thursday evening, March 21, I went with Abd Al Majeed Al Jaafreh to the tree. I placed candles in the niches and watched the reaction of the people who had not seen the entrance of their village lit with candles for the previous five years.

### The houses

Wadi El Karak offers a type of Jordanian house that I did not see anywhere else. The houses of this area exhibit one extreme variation on the typical village house in Jordan. Normally most of the variations are limited to the proportions of the outer cube, its relationship with the open spaces and other functions, and to the interior. In the Bathnan house something else happens that changes the entrance of the house completely: here the entrance to the house starts with a big arch. This arch is proportionately identical to the inner arches that carry the roof but is placed outside the rectangle of the house. The door then is seen inside this arch in a second front wall. The space that is between the wall with the arch and the wall with the door is long and narrow. It is used to keep things out of the rain and sometimes for baking bread. Entering a Bathnan house one feels the transition that this special variation gives, instead of experiencing a sudden change in light and privacy. The outer arch provides a resolved alternative to the abrupt change created by an immediate entrance into the living area.

The interior of the Bathnan house is typical; the only thing

one notices is that the grain storage areas are limited. This results from the type of agriculture prevailing in the area, and since the landscape of Bathnan does not provide large areas for growing grain, this product has had limited effect on interior storage facilities.

### The people

The majority of the population of Bathnan is from the Al Jaafreh family which is a branch of the main family Al Habashneh. Other branches include Al Rahafteh, Arud and Ramadan. Bathnan is lively even though it is

half-deserted. The fact that the village has one main entrance makes for quite a bit of traffic in the walkway. In the early morning the entrance of the village becomes a popular gathering spot for many people — teachers from Bathnan who teach in other villages, students who go to school in Karak, men going to the market place and soldiers going back to their duty stations. And while all these people wait for the first bus from Karak before dawn, others pass by on their way to the fields or herd their goats towards grazing land.

My second day in Bathnan

started early. The breakfast was olive oil with sylvatic oregano, whole wheat bread, and goat's milk boiled with sugar. I was given a donkey to ride to the farming land of Abu Abd El Razzag Al Jaafreh, the father of the family I stayed with. His sons Sheikh Ali and Abd El Haleem were both riding on the big mule that does the plowing. We left the village heading to the east and descended between the fields of Bathnan. We passed the two water springs on the way and kept going deeper and deeper into Wadi Al Karak. The road got so steep that I became very frightened. Hold-

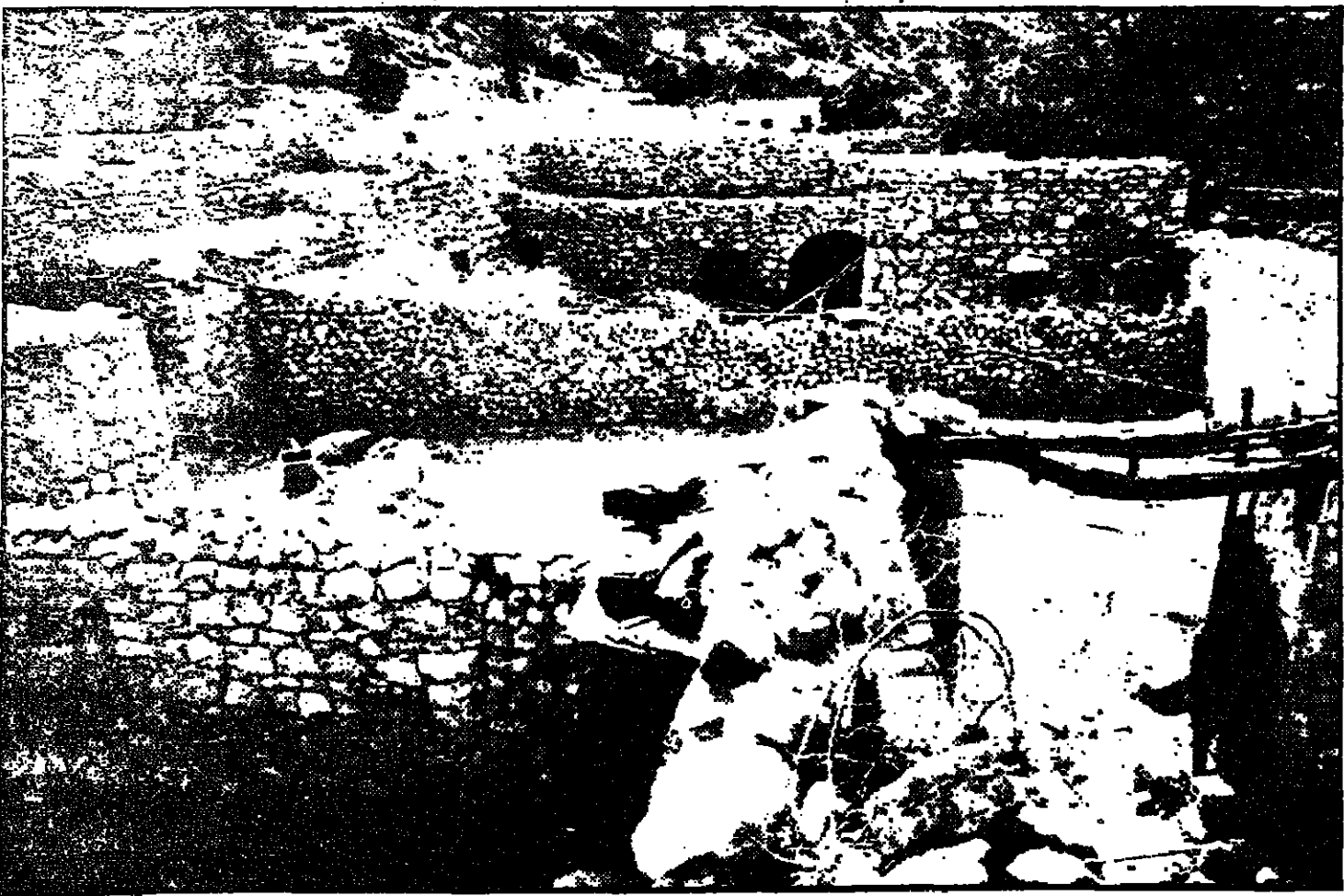
ing tightly to the plow that was tied on the donkey, I finally arrived at the site of that day's work. The site had at least a 45 degree slope. It is hard to imagine how the grapevines did not slide into the wadi. The grapevines were ancient and were kept in good maintenance; this was the reason for that day's work. Sheikh Ali and his brother Abd El Haleem worked hard opening horizontal scores in the steep land to prevent rainwater from flowing downward eroding the earth. These scores are also used as water channels to irrigate the grapevines during the summer.



A large arch precedes the main door creating a strong entrance of a house in the village of Mumia.



Sheikh Ali



The courtyard where goats are kept.

## Fasting: Concept and objectives

By Syed Neaz Ahmad

RAMADAN is the month when Muslims observe a total fast from dawn to dusk. Muslims hold this month very dear to their heart for the revelation of the Holy Koran began this month.

Fasting or *saum* as it is called in Arabic is one of the cardinal principles of Islam. *Saum* is an Arabic word meaning abstention from something. *Saum* as such is not merely fasting. Ramadan fasting is not only abstention from food but from all worldly pleasures. It is also an observance of strict moral conduct.

In prescribing abstinence from food, drink and sex from morning till evening during the month of Ramadan, the Holy Koran has made it clear that the object of such a discipline is to inculcate piety in an individual. Addressing the believers, the Koran says, "Fasting is prescribed for you as it were prescribed for those before you, so that you may attain righteousness."

Having said that, the question arises, "What is this fast or *saum*?" In fact, the English word fast does not fully convey the

meaning of the word *saum*. However, a person observing the fast is required, throughout the month of Ramadan to abstain from food, drink and sex between the first flush of dawn and sunset. Ramadan fast is obligatory upon every Muslim adult, with certain exceptions. A sick person, a traveller, a woman nursing a child, an old person, and one who feels the severity of fast on account of age or infirmity, are all exempt. When the reason for exemption from fast is only temporary, the number of fasts missed should be made up any time during the year.

Ramadan, being a lunar month, comes eleven days earlier every year, thus rotating through the year. It falls in all seasons in turn. In the tropics where most Muslims live, when Ramadan falls in summer season, the fast imposes considerable hardship. During this month normal work has to be carried on, and in the intense heat and dryness a severe degree of thirst has to be endured for several hours each day. But the fast of Ramadan is not a penance.

### Objective

Ramadan fast is a physical, moral and spiritual discipline. Its object is the attainment of righteousness. Similar disciplines had been prescribed in other faiths, though in some it has only a symbolic significance. In many ancient faiths fasting was confined to a particular class. Among the Hindus, for instance, it was reserved for the Brahmins, and among the fire-worshippers, for the priests. In ancient Greece only women were required to fast.

Islam has done away with these classifications and has made fasting a universal religious duty. Now, you may wonder, "What is it that makes Muslims voluntarily undergo such rigours?" Well, it is nothing but a faith in Allah and fear of Allah and the day of judgment. The rigour and discipline of this month bring Muslims face to face with the realities of life and help them make their entire life, a life of true obedience to Allah's will.

From yet another point of view, fasting has an immense impact on society, for all Muslims

irrespective of their status must observe fast during Ramadan. This brings to prominence the essential quality of men and creates in them the sentiments of love and brotherhood.

Fasting has its own rules and prohibitions, its own system and social goals. In Islam, fasting is enjoined for the moral elevation and spiritual development of man. As we have seen before, Ramadan fasting is not mere abstention from food — it's a total abstention from all worldly pleasures. In fact, abstention from food is only a step toward the goal of achieving piety. So we see that fasting is actually a kind of training and the month of Ramadan is one of the means by which Muslims try to achieve this.

Ramadan fasting has moral as well as physical advantages. It not only prepares a person for a life of hardship and frugality but also exercises a soothing effect upon this mind and body. It is well known tradition of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that diet control is the best cure for many diseases — a fact which has been proved by recent medical findings — Arab News.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Arabic in the Jordan Press Foundation, established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## The American perception of the uprising

By Robert Olson

THE Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and its support from Israeli Arabs have thrown an even starker light on American policy toward the Israel-Palestine question. It seems even more evident that despite the Shultz shuttle, the United States supports the incorporation of the West Bank and Gaza into Israel. This means that the U.S. will only support policies that have the objective of improving the quality of life of Palestinians in the occupied territories and perhaps allowing them some limited form of autonomy.

The repressive measures used by Israel have now become evident to the most lackadaisical observer, but the fact that there has not been any really strong political response from the United States means that such suppressive measures, including killings, will continue to be tolerated. The acceptance of such a degree of suppression will serve to prepare the ground for even more drastic action in the future which may include the destruction of towns and villages and the deportation of large numbers of Palestinians.

In the absence of a meaningful American political response, the level of Israel's violence will continue with the aim of keeping the situation stable, even though many people in Europe and the United States now realise that Palestinians are being treated brutally. But this realisation does not foster the further realisation that Palesti-

nians have political rights.

It must be recognised that in some ways mass media coverage of the uprising has been a victory for Israel. Most of the mass media in the U.S., the printed more than television, depicted the uprisings as Arab and not Palestinian. While it is true that reports originating in Israel invariably use the word Arab instead of Palestinian, this was also true of knowledgeable columnists such as Joseph Hirsch in the *Christian Science Monitor*. The perception of the public in the United States is that Israel's suppressive action is being used against Arabs, and Arabs are not well liked by the American public. Suppressing measures against just one part of the Arab World can't be too serious. The killing of over 100 Palestinians and the beating and imprisonment of several thousand more is simply not enough to turn around 20 years of anti-Arab policies and rhetoric in the American mass media. In addition there is no group in the United States that is supportive of Arabs other than the small Arab-American associations. It must not be forgotten that it is only through the efforts of Black Americans that South Africa is kept in the public eye. In short, the public perception of the Palestinian uprising is that Israel's actions to suppress it, including killings, are deplorable but acceptable.

The second point regarding the American perception of the uprising is that even if it has created an enhanced consciousness of the plight of the Palestinians, the response was and will continue to

be muted because of the non-Jewish public's concern over its relations with the Jewish community in the United States. This is best illustrated by the lack of public comment on the uprising by members of Congress and presidential candidates. The reason for this is that members of Congress are sensitive to Jewish Americans' concerns and interests regardless of what is occurring in the Middle East.

A response, not even a strong one, perceived as being opposed to the position of the American Jewish leadership with regard to Israel would necessitate an evaluation of the Jewish role in American politics in areas other than the Middle East, for example in relations with the Soviet Union. No one wants to do this as it would be destabilising to the American polity. An earnest discussion of the Israel-Palestine question would necessitate a discussion of the equilibrium within the American political system. This will not be allowed to occur.

It is for this reason that there will never be a strong American reaction to Israel's repression of the Palestinians whether in the occupied territories, in Israel itself, or in the diaspora. An enhanced realisation of Israel's intentions towards the Palestinians by the American public will not change U.S. policy. For what is at stake is the balance and equilibrium of the American political system — Middle East International, London.

## Gifts, guarantees

THE sweeping American-Israeli "memorandum of agreement" on cooperation that was signed last week was described as a "great U.S. gift" to Israel on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Zionist state. And so it may be, but it indeed is an open slap in the face of the Arab World in that the memorandum, which binds successive American administrations into towing the heavily pro-Israeli policy of the Reagan White House, cannot be seen as anything but a reward for Israeli extremists led by its Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who has done nothing but undermine prospects for a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The "great American gift" to Israel also coincides with Washington's declared efforts to bring in an international context to Middle East peace negotiations through accepting the idea of an international conference under U.N. auspices, albeit a heavily watered-down version of the Arab call for such a forum. By the same token, Washington has made its stand very clear by openly indicating its unambiguous stand by the side of one of the protagonists — Israel — in the overall equation. How does that compare with the American contention that the Soviet Union has not been doing anything "creative" to warrant a role in Middle East peace negotiations? Does the wide-ranging memorandum of agreement which establishes without the slightest trace of doubt Israel's status as the most important strategic ally of the U.S. in the Middle East be seen as "creative"?

It is precisely because of this lop-sided American stand that the Arabs are insisting on a full-fledged international conference which will not be just a ceremonial umbrella for peace talks. If anything, the Arab insistence should indeed be strengthened by the open American declaration through its latest gift to Israel since there is little doubt that the roles appear to be reversed now; it will be the U.S. that will try to impose Israeli solutions on the Arabs rather than the Soviets and Chinese trying the same thing with Israel as Shamir and company allege.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Fighting for Palestinian rights

KING Hussein has again stressed that Jordan will remain committed to serving the Arab nation at large; and reiterated that this country will be faithful to the principles and the goals of the Great Arab Revolt. Jordan, as King Hussein said, has clearly and openly declared its stand with regard to the solution of the Middle East problem, and wants a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories so that a just and durable solution for the Palestine problem can be found and the Palestinian people's rights can be ensured. In this context, the King said that Jordan cannot attend an international conference without the participation of all concerned parties specially the PLO which represents the Palestinian people. Any attempt to force Jordan to act on behalf of the PLO will be tantamount to an attempt of avoiding a solution for the Palestine problem as a whole. The King paid tribute to the Palestinian people's uprising which he described as an expression of that people's rejection of continued occupation and a show of desire for freedom and salvation. The King said that the Palestinian people are taking a heroic stand now, defending their rights and struggling for freedom in the face of occupation and injustice. Struggle has been the choice of the Palestinians whose hearts have no room for despair and can never allow injustice to prevail.

#### Al Dustour: An Arab fortress

KING Hussein spoke at an Iftar banquet Sunday, emphasising that Jordan will remain a strong fortress with its people and armed forces and national unity. This country, he noted, will remain an oasis of stability where all people enjoy equal rights and responsibilities in accordance with the constitution. The King is full of affection for and pride in his people; he is keen on embarking on any move that would enhance the links of unity and interaction among this people. The King was keen on sending his greetings to the steadfast people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip who are involved in an uprising in the face of Israel's oppression. He said their revolt is an expression of their rejection of occupation and continued injustice; and also it is a manifestation of that people's adherence to their land and their rights. The King reiterated that Jordan will never act on behalf of the PLO which is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. His statement came as a reply to all attempts by the enemy to draw a wedge among brothers and disrupt their unity, achieved at the Amman Summit meeting last November.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Committed to Arab causes

KING Hussein addressed the nation Sunday, reiterating his commitment to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt and pledging to remain faithful to serving the Arab nation in the light of these principles. In greeting the steadfast people in the occupied Arab lands, the King stressed again that Jordan will support their uprising. Jordan, he said, will never act on behalf of the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people at the projected international peace conference, but will remain faithful in defending the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine. This country, its people and armed forces will remain true to their commitment in defending the Arab people of Palestine, and will continue to seek all means for bringing justice to this land. The King said that Jordan, regardless of the challenges and the obstacles, will continue to struggle for unity among Arabs in general and the Palestinian people in particular, a unity which was the objective of the Great Arab Revolt. The steadfast people will continue their uprising and will never allow despair infiltrate their hearts.

## Unlike Panama Canal, Suez Canal's troubles not home-grown

By William C. Mann  
The Associated Press

ISMAILIYA, Egypt — These are troubled times for the Suez Canal. It's a victim of the "tanker war" waged 1,400 miles away, in the Gulf, by Iraqi warplanes and Iranian gunboats.

Ask a canal man about business, and he talks of the Gulf war as much as of moving ships between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

"It's not so bad, even though the war's still going on," said Capt. Aly Nasr, deputy director of the transit. "We have more ships (in 1988) than last year." Although the canal remained a vital contributor to Egypt's economy in 1987, almost 5 per cent fewer ships used it than in 1986, when traffic totals already were down by 7 per cent from 1985. Net tonnage was down last year more than 5 per cent, tanker tonnage off almost 9 per cent.

The tanker war began on March 27, 1984. By late March 1988, 308 tankers with 66 million tonnes capacity had been hit, said the Oslo-based International Tanker Organisation, Intertanko. That's 10 per cent of the ships in the world's tanker fleet and 25 per cent of its capacity. Additionally, Intertanko said 10 million tonnes — 4 per cent of capacity — were total losses, the ships scrapped.

As the war has heated up, tanker usage of the canal has declined, 257 fewer in 1987 than in 1986, a drop of 7 per cent.

#### Progressive decline

Daunting as they are, such figures represent only part of the progressive decline in the Suez Canal's fortunes, said Mohamed Ezzat Adel, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority.

He told the London-based shipping newspaper Lloyd's List

that the Gulf turmoil caused a decline of 5 per cent — 862 ships — in non-oil cargo carriers through the canal last year, the second consecutive annual decrease. He blamed it on "the drop in Arab Gulf imports from Europe and America due to the drop in oil revenues, the Gulf war and the world recession."

"This means that the cause behind the drop in trade volume using the canal is the drop in volume of world seaborne trade in general."

The only measure by which 1987 was a good year was in the movement of warships through the canal, because of the Gulf conflict, and in dollar earnings, because of the American currency's collapse.

Canal tolls are billed in special drawing rights, a five-currency basket designed by the International Monetary Fund, and are paid in any of 16 currencies. Despite a marginal decline in SDR income, the dollar's tumble meant more greenbacks for other currencies.

This resulted in a rise of 9.2 per cent in dollar earnings to a record \$1.2 billion. That's more dollars than are produced by any Egyptian sector except money sent home by expatriate workers, oil exports and tourism.

Even though dollars are what count in Egypt's dollar-linked economy, the record dollar income from a troubled canal is quasi prosperity. Thus, canal authority officials have come up with innovations designed to generate new revenue to bring back real prosperity.

In the process, the authority again is rebutting assumptions widely held in 1986, when Gamal Abdul Nasser stunned the world by nationalising the waterway, that the Egyptians would be unable to make a go of it.

## Schizophrenic Israel

The following article by Yossef Lapid appeared on April 1 in the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv. It is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

THERE are two states of Israel. One is a military, some even say nuclear power, which courageously controls large areas of the Middle East. It determines U.S. foreign policy by means of pressure from the Jewish lobby. It has developed high-tech industries and promoted sophisticated agricultural schemes, and maintains an exemplary democratic regime, a model welfare state, and admirable cultural institutions. This state is the pride of diaspora Jewry, and has, during its 40 years of existence, brought about a miracle unrivalled in the history of nations.

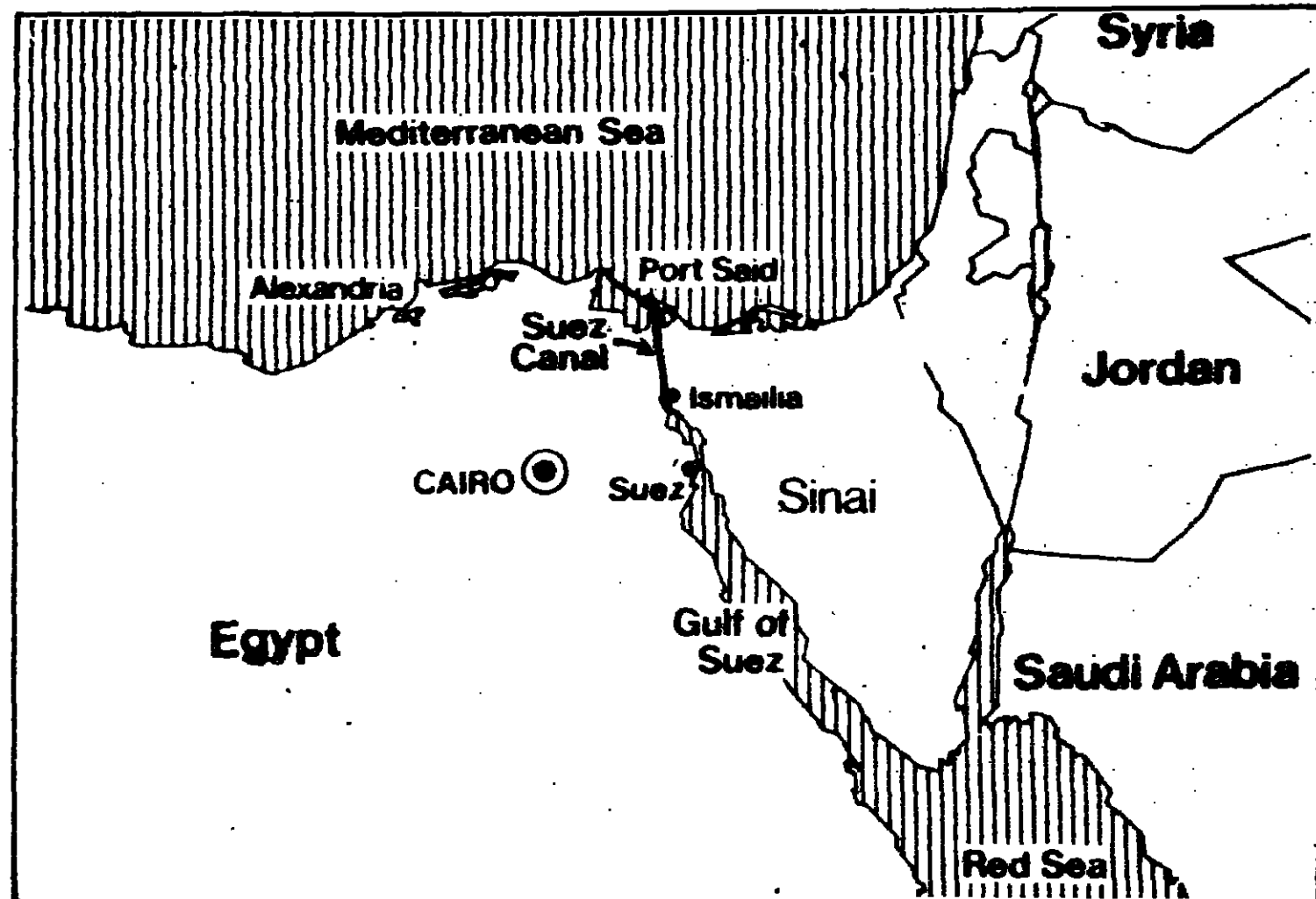
There is also another state of Israel, one surrounded by enemies bent on its destruction and waging a hopeless struggle to impose its rule on another people living in territories that don't belong to it. That state is dependent upon the political and economic generosity of the United States, a burden to diaspora Jewry and almost isolated in the family of nations. Moreover, it is being torn apart by internal conflicts and groaning under the growing weight of a fossilised bureaucracy. It looks at the future with justified concern, not having learned yet even how to play football properly.

The two states of Israel coexist with one another, in mutual contradiction, yet mutually entwined. "Poor old Samson" (Samson Agonistes) is how the

late Levi Eshkol used to call it. There is no point in asking the real state of Israel to please stand up. Both are real. We are both proud and deeply ashamed citizens, we hold two passports, one to paradise and the other to hell. We have two identities, that of truth seekers and that of persecutors. We fluctuate between moments of great pride and blackest despair, between high hopes and deep frustration, between Jerusalem the Golden and East Jerusalem.

In such circumstances it is no wonder we have developed a kind of national schizophrenia, which expresses itself in wild mood swings, social tensions and grave problems of self image. Our schizophrenia also make it difficult to reach a national consensus. With starting points quite so far apart as ours, it is impossible to agree on a path.

The wider world also has problems deciding which is the real Israel. The events of the last few months have reinforced Israel's negative image. Yet our international reputation, and especially our image in the Arab World, are not just of cosmetic concern. They determine, to a large extent, the attitude taken towards us is concrete matters. It is here that the greatest danger lies, for a vision of Israel as wretched and ugly may well become a self-fulfilling prophecy.



#### Cornerstone of Egypt's economy

One successful new move is a system of rebates for long-haul bulk carriers to entice them into the canal rather than around the Cape of Good Hope. Rebates have been given for less than a year but already have provided more than \$30 million in new cash.

As the 1960s-era supertanker has appeared more and more to be shipping's dinosaur, plans were shelved to dredge the canal to accommodate them. They were replaced by a project, begun last year for completion in 1990, to widen the canal for wider ships at acceptable drafts.

Except for an eight-year period when it was closed by ships Egypt scuttled during the 1967 Middle East war, the canal under Egyptian management has been a cornerstone of the country's economy.

#### It wasn't always so.

Scores of thousands of conscripted labourers dug the 101-mile ditch from Port Said in the north to Suez in the south between 1859 and 1869. The project cost Egypt more than \$80 million in external debt and a vast but uncertain number of Egyptian lives, many of them in a great cholera epidemic in 1865-66.

Khedive Ismail, Egypt's ruler, drove his country to bankruptcy with the canal and his generally spendthrift ways.

Trying to stave off bankruptcy, Ismail and his son Tewfik sold all of Egypt's stock and royalties in the Suez Canal Co., so that by 1890 the canal that had cost Egypt so dearly in money and lives belonged to French, British and other foreigners.

#### A battlefield

At the same time, Ismail's good friend Ferdinand de Les-

seps, the French engineer who built the canal, grew rich, often at Ismail's expense, and famous. On his induction to the French Academy in 1884, academy secretary Camille Doucet told him:

"The Suez Canal... will be a gateway to the oceans... Everybody will compete for its possession. You have thus marked the site of a great future battlefield."

As he predicted, war has had a major role in the canal's history, despite an 1888 international convention guaranteeing universal access in peace and war.

The Khedive's first concession agreement with de Lesseps, in 1856, specified neutrality for the canal.

Nevertheless, in 1882 Britain, a major shareholder because it bought Ismail's 44 per cent stock in 1875, dispatched troops on the pretext of guarding European interests from rising Egyptian nationalism. The canal zone was the British base of military opera-

tions, and canal traffic was interrupted for the first time.

Britain retained the zone as a military base. It barred German and other enemy ships during both world wars, invoking a clause in the convention that said neutrality should not infringe Egypt's security and public order.

Citing the same clause, King Farouk closed the canal to Israeli ships on May 15, 1948, the day Israel declared itself a state and the first Arab-Israeli war broke out. Israel couldn't use the waterway until President Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat signed the Arab World's first peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979.

Nationalisation led to yet another war. In late October 1956 Israel, Britain and France collaborated in a short-lived invasion remembered in Egyptian histories as the tripartite aggression. They withdrew ignominiously, mainly under pressure from U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

## Mossad: Israel's agent of terror

By Mascha Hamilton  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — When an assassination team gunned down the PLO's no. 2 man at his home in Tunisia, it was widely accepted as another daring action by the long arm of Israel's fabled security and intelligence services.

The slaying of Khalil Wazir, 1,500 miles from Israel on April 16 bore the fingerprints of the Mossad, the agency responsible for activities outside Israel's borders. By all accounts it was quick, decisive, carried out with split-second timing and backed by Israel's air and naval forces.

Israel's intelligence has been able to gather precise information on locations of homes or installations and the movements of bodyguards. Teams have been able to make pinpoint attacks and often escape without detection.

Although Israeli officials declined public comment, Israeli sources privately acknowledged the killing was planned by the agency, approved by the government and carried out by elite Israeli commandos. Tunisia accused Israel of carrying out the assassination.

Israel's intelligence services have planted an agent in Syria, found and kidnapped Nazi war criminal Alois Eichmann from Argentina in 1960, participated in the dramatic rescue of Israeli hostages held at Entebbe airport in Uganda in 1976 and the bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981.

The Mossad has earned a reputation for carrying out imaginative, high-risk operations to rescue Israeli captives or punish

those believed responsible for planning and carrying out attacks against Israelis.

"Because of our special circumstances — namely we are poor, small and surrounded by belligerent countries — the Israeli intelligence is of utmost importance," said Meir Amir, head of the Mossad from 1963 to 1968. "We have to have ears and eyes beyond our borders."

"If you can bang in the nail in one hit instead of two, you save money and energy. But to do that, you have to know where the head of the nail is," Amit told the Associated Press. "That's where the Mossad comes in."

Despite some public failures, Israeli intelligence has been effective, and the Wazir operation fits the pattern.

Wazir, 52, also known as Abu Jihad, was deputy to Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat and head of the PLO's military operations.

Israelis say Wazir organised a 1978 bus hijacking in which 35 Israelis were killed and a Tel Aviv hotel takeover in 1975 in which 11 hostages were slain.

More recently, Israelis contend he was the mastermind behind nearly five months of Arab uprising as well as two successful infiltrations in which nine Israelis were killed.

Founded in 1951, the agency is responsible for covert activities outside the country. It is so secret that Israeli law bars publishing the name of the current Mossad chief. The agency is viewed as key to Israel's survival.

The agency is helped by the fact that Israel, because it is a state of emigrants, has among its

ranks Jews born in Arab countries who speak Arabic and can easily fit into enemy environments.

Eli Cohen, the legendary Israeli spy who developed close friendships with Syrian government and military leaders, is a classic example.

The Egyptian-born Cohen, posing as an Arab, provided Israel with critical information from 1960 until 1965, when he was unmasked, tried and hanged by the Syrians.

In addition, most Jews who do not live in Israel feel a sense of loyalty to the Jewish state.

In 1966, the Mossad used an American woman to persuade an Iraqi fighter pilot to defect to Israel with his Soviet-built MiG-21 fighter sought by Israeli military intelligence.

Mossad agents also were led to Eichmann by a tip from a German official who was Jewish.

Although few details have yet emerged, the Wazir killing appears to bear the most similarity to the 1973 raid on PLO offices in Beirut in which three top PLO officials, including Wazir's predecessor Kameel Adwan, were killed.

As in the Wazir killing, that operation involved seaborne commandos who managed to carry out the killings on enemy territory despite the presence of armed guards.

The leader of that earlier raid was Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, now the head of military intelligence who reportedly helped organise the Wazir killing.

to Israeli sources. Barak was the officer who personally saw off the commandos who went to Tunis to kill Wazir.

Israel also had experience making the long trip to Tunis over the Mediterranean Sea. In 1985, Israel bombed PLO headquarters in Tunis, killing 50 people including an Arafat bodyguard.

There have been some failures. The Mossad was criticised for failing to adequately warn Israeli leaders of an Arab military build-up prior to the 1973 war.

In addition, Israeli agents killed the wrong man in July 1973 in their hunt for an Arab fighter in Lillehammer, Norway. The 1972 Ben-Gurion airport massacre, in which Japanese Red Army guerrillas killed 26 people and wounded 72 in the Israeli passenger terminal, was a serious security lapse.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Ezer Weizman, a cabinet minister without portfolio, have publicly expressed displeasure with the assassination, fearing it could kill U.S.-backed peace efforts and fuel greater Arab extremism.

The daily Hadashot wrote: "At the very time that Israeli leaders are primarily concerned with calming the territories, the elimination of Abu Jihad is like tossing an enormous amount of fuel on the flames."

"Moreover, if the PLO leaders are to be eliminated, with whom then do we intend to discuss the issue of settling the Palestinian problem?" the paper asked.

Many Israelis, however, feel Wazir's assassination provided some long-awaited good news.



## Yemens pull back border troops

ABU DHABI (R) — The leaders of North and South Yemen have agreed to reduce the number of troops guarding their common frontier, South Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Baidh said.

"We have agreed to reduce the two sides' troops at the borders in a bid to forestall any confrontation which we totally reject," Baidh told the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad.

In the interview published Monday, Baidh said they were considering jointly exploiting oil deposits on the border.

The discovery of oil at Mar'in in North Yemen by Hunt Oil of the United States and at Shabwa in South Yemen by Technoexport of the Soviet Union in the early 1980s led to tension.

The finds were only 200 kilometres apart leading to the suggestions that there was a single field straddling the border.

Tension between the neighbour states rose and Gulf newspapers reported increased border military activity.

Baidh met President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the North Yemeni town of Taiz last week to defuse tension.

"At Taiz, we also agreed to normalise our ties as they were before 1986 and continue meetings at committee levels to draw up the unity timetable," Baidh said.

Baidh, secretary general of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, topped President Ali Nasser Mohammad in a bloody coup in January 1986.



MOMENT OF TRIUMPH: Iraqi soldiers give the "V" for victory salute before a giant, bullet-riddled portrait of Iranian revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after liberating Fao peninsula from Iranian occupation last week.

## Ethiopia, Somalia disengage border forces

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia and Somali armies have completed a disengagement of forces along the border in accordance with the peace agreement signed by the two former enemies earlier this month, Ethiopia said Monday.

A Foreign Ministry statement said both countries had withdrawn their troops to between 10 and 15 kilometres from the frontier under the supervision of a joint military commission.

The disengagement process, the first of several measures designed to restore confidence after more than a decade of hostility between Ethiopia and Somalia, was originally due to start April 15 and end by May 15.

The two countries went to war in the Ogaden region of eastern Ethiopia in 1977. The war ended in 1978, when Somali forces withdrew to the border, but the two countries kept tens of thousands of troops stationed along the 1,700-kilometre front and intermittent clashes continued until

last year.

Under the peace agreement, signed in Mogadishu April 3, Ethiopia and Somalia have already restored diplomatic relations. They will also exchange prisoners of war and refrain from hostile propaganda or acts of destabilisation against each other.

They will eventually open talks on demarcating the border, which Somalia maintains is only an administrative line inherited from the former colonial powers which ruled the Horn of Africa.

Somalia says the people of the Ogaden, many of whom are ethnic Somalis, should have the right to self-determination, while Addis Ababa wants Mogadishu to recognise the present border as permanent.

### Eritrean rebel attack

The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported Monday that Ethiopia's only oil refinery and other installations in the Red

Sea port of Assab suffered no damage in an attack by Eritrean rebels last week.

ENA said Friday the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) killed five people and injured 15 when it shelled the refinery from the island of Senbar last Tuesday.

But Monday it quoted its reporter at the port as saying the rebel attempt to cause economic havoc was a total failure as all the installations were intact.

In a radio broadcast monitored in Nairobi the EPLF said its aim was to destroy the refinery because of its military and economic importance to the Ethiopian government.

Assab, 600 kilometres northeast of Addis Ababa, is one of Ethiopia's two main ports. It handles much of the relief food for some seven million people suffering the effects of drought.

### Barre back Eritreans

Somali President Mohammad

Siad Barre was quoted Monday as saying he still supports the demands of the Eritrean movement despite the agreement with Ethiopia on improving relations.

Kuwait's Al Qabas daily quoted Barre as saying the agreement was prompted by the need to improve the both countries' economic conditions.

He said that by virtue of the agreement, the two neighbours abandoned military confrontation.

"Frankly speaking, we have acted out of our responsibility toward our people. But this does not negate or end our principled attitude towards the right of self-determination of peoples," Barre said.

The agreement was a purely Somali decision and "pertains to Somalia," while Eritrea was like other issues that faced Ethiopia internally.

"We're not going to hinder the right of self-determination of peoples," he said.

## Iraq successfully tests new 900-km missile

(Continued from page 1)

killed in the clashes and vowed revenge.

The U.S. navy struck after blasting two offshore Iranian oil platforms in a "measured response" for the mining of a U.S. missile frigate in the Gulf April 14.

Khamenei, who is chairman of the supreme defence council that determines Iranian strategy, warned the United States against any further "foolhardy moves."

If the Americans launch any more "aggressive moves in the (Arabian) Gulf" they would get "a decisive and harsh response from us," he declared.

The fiery Iranian rhetoric came amid a lull in the fighting. Both sides reported scattered skirmishing and artillery duels, but no major action.

A tacit truce in the so-called "war of the cities" that took hold April 21 appeared to be holding. Neither side has fired missiles at population centres since then.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George Shultz said Monday the United States would defend its right to operate in the Gulf but would not get entangled in a war with Iran.

"We will not get tied up in any serious shooting war with the Iranians," Shultz said in a television interview.

"Our object is simply to defend our interests, to insure the continued ability to use international waterways," Shultz said. "There is no right on the part of Iran or anybody else to put mines in international waterways, and they should know that."

Shultz did not dispute reports that the Reagan administration

was considering extending its Gulf escort missions to other nations' ships when possible, but said President Reagan had made no final decision.

"As far as our rules of engagement are concerned, what the right ones are for this stage of the game in the Gulf is being considered in Washington," he said.

"There is a process of consultation going on and I think it's premature to describe them in any particular way."

Shultz was interviewed from Brussels where he briefed NATO allies on his talks with Soviet officials in Moscow on the summit there late next month between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He said he did not tell the allies that Gorbachev and Reagan would not sign a treaty halving long-range nuclear weapons at

the summit, but said it was becoming increasingly unlikely such a pact would be ready in time.

"It's difficult and so the probability of finishing that treaty in time for the Moscow summit becomes less and less," he said.

"On the other hand we keep working at it."

Shultz also said he registered strong U.S. opposition to Denmark's foreign minister Monday against his country's new law banning U.S. nuclear ships from its ports.

When asked if he had told the Danish official he did not like that one bit, Shultz said: "You took the words right out of my mouth."

"NATO works because it not only confers benefits so to speak, but it also calls for all the countries to bear their proportionate responsibility," he said.

In Gaza, troops raided the offices of the Lawyers' Association, the Workers' Union, the Women's Union, the Red Crescent Medical Aid Society and the Engineers' Association and took away dozens of files, Palestinian sources said.

"They confiscated all the files and papers which were in our offices," said Faez Abu Rahme, chairman of the Gaza Lawyers' Association. "They said they wanted to check all the papers."

The organisations are regarded as close to the PLO. Israeli forces are attempting to prevent PLO money from reaching strikers and families of those arrested in the uprising.

## U.S. plans Taba mediation

CAIRO (R) — The United States is trying fresh mediation in a dispute between Egypt and Israel over a speck of Israeli-held beach, Western sources said Monday.

Washington's legal expert on the Taba dispute, Judge Abraham Sofaer, was expected to hold talks in Egypt and Israel this week, they said.

It was not clear whether Sofaer, who failed to get Israel to accept a compromise solution last December, had brought new proposals or would revive his earlier ideas.

Taba, a 700-metre Red Sea beach near the Israeli port of Eilat, was retained by Israel when its troops left the rest of Sinai in 1982 under the U.S.-brokered Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

After long, fruitless negotiations, Egypt and Israel sent the dispute in September 1986 to an arbitration panel in Geneva which is due to give a binding ruling in July or August.

A ruling against Egypt's case for sovereignty over Taba could cause a crisis for President Hosni Mubarak, diplomats said.

A ruling against Israel's case could spark fresh political strains in the Zionist state's divided coalition government.

Either way, an arbitrated solution awarding Taba to one side was likely to sour ties between Israel and Egypt, the diplomats said.

"Washington has a special interest in seeing that the Taba dispute is resolved without a 'winner-takes-all' situation," a West European diplomat said.

The United States failed last December to forge a compromise that would make arbitration unnecessary.

Egypt accepted but Israel rejected proposals by Sofaer under which Egypt would get sovereignty over Taba and Israelis, seen in Cairo as mainly interested in continued use of a luxury hotel on the beach, would get guaranteed access.

Disclosure that Sofaer would discuss the dispute again with the two governments came on the sixth anniversary of Israel's pull-out from the rest of Sinai.

"The Egyptian flag over Sinai shall never fall again," Mubarak declared in a televised speech, praising Egyptian development efforts in the peninsula since 1982.

"Sinai is a clear example for repairing traces of aggression,"

he said. Israel and Egypt are bound to accept the ruling of the five arbitrators — neutral judges from Sweden, Switzerland and France, an Israeli and an Egyptian.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, speaking before news broke of Sofaer's new mission, appeared to rule out a compromise.

"It's no longer a question of a negotiated diplomatic compromise but of a legal order and sanction," he said in a Cairo newspaper interview published Sunday.

Abdul Meguid said Egypt was convinced its case was watertight but would accept whatever the arbitrators decided.

## Siniora: Abu Jihad killing hardened Palestinians

HAIFA (R) — Palestinian newspaper editor Hanna Siniora said the killing of the deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has hardened the attitudes of Palestinians.

The army last week closed Al Fajr for two weeks.

"Five days of closure (of the occupied territories) shows that we are being told that Israel is going to use the stick instead of the carrot," he said.

Siniora said a current rapprochement between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would aid efforts for peace.

"Palestinian-Syrian cooperation is essential in bringing forward the peace process and in this way hastening the bringing of all the Arab countries to sit together and have a united front," Siniora told Reuters.

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## Palestinian uprising prompts 'war of ads' in United States

By Neil MacFarquhar  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, rocks and bullets are the projectiles of choice in the battle between Israelis and Palestinians. In America, the battle is waged with newspaper advertisements.

"Sometimes the only way to get what you want said into the newspaper is to pay for it," said Ruth Popkin, president of Hadassah, the Jewish women's group that placed an ad calling for a dialogue between women in the Middle East.

There are ads that call for an end to "all aid to apartheid Israel." There are ads that say, "We stand with (Israelis) in your hour of trial, are confident in your essential decency and commitment to democratic values."

Readers of the New York Times and the Washington Post have grown accustomed to such ads through the years; the Christian Science Monitor, the Wall Street Journal, the Boston Globe, the Nation, Harper's and the New York Review of Books also are favoured media for issues ads.

But the volume of such ads is increasing and spreading to smaller newspapers like the Santa Barbara (California) news-press.

"There's been an increase in the number of opinion ads related to the Middle East from a variety of sources with a variety of different positions," said William Adler, a spokesman for the New York Times Co.

Robert Rawls, responsible for advocacy advertising at the Post, says the paper considers it an important source of revenue.

"We particularly carry a lot of advertising on anything concerning Israel or the Middle East because those different groups have money to spend," he said.

Free speech is not cheap. A full-page ad in the New York Times costs as much as \$40,000; a similar ad in the Washington Post cost \$30,000.

Though Arab-Americans have purchased some ads, most have been initiated by Jews, the divergent viewpoints reflect conflicts within the Jewish community on Israel's policies in the occupied territories.

In March, Daniel Benson and four other New York city professionals organised the ad hoc committee for Middle East policy options.

Benson said the five put up \$36,000 for the first of a series of ads in the Times because they wanted visiting Israeli Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir to know that some American Jews support his position.

They joined "the war of the ads," as he called it, to decrease the pressure on Israel to "trade territory for so-called peace."

"We see the 'riots' as just another phase in the campaign against Israel, in the war against Israel," said Benson.

### 'Courage to speak out'

In contrast, Mark Bruzonsky, an attorney who used to work for the American Jewish Congress, arranged an ad that advocates reducing both U.S. aid to Israel and military and intelligence cooperation.

"We as American Jews don't want to be associated with what Israel is doing," said Bruzonsky. "It's both embarrassing and shameful that the United States continues to support these policies, which are abhorrent."

"It is no secret that the Jewish lobby is extremely powerful, members of Congress are afraid of speaking out," Bruzonsky said. "That made it more important that American Jews like ourselves have the courage to speak out."

Michael Lerner, editor of Tikun Magazine and an organiser of an ad campaign calling for an end to the military occupation, said courage is necessary. He says he has received death threats in the mail due to the ads.

But Jack Mondlak says his Fifth Avenue apartment has been inundated with mail supporting his full-page ads in the Times calling upon Israel to maintain control over the territories.

"It is not true what some people say that the American Jewish community is divided over Israel — 99 per cent are steadfast behind Israel," he said. He has spent \$300,000 of his publishing fortune on ads in dozens of papers.

Faris Bouhafa, spokesman for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), said his organisation prefers to post handbills in the subway. But the committee is a member of the Council of Presidents of Arab-American Organisations, which has advertised.

Jewish ads outnumber Arab ads by a two-to-one margin because "the organised Jewish community, especially in New York, feels very defensive about the way that Israel is perceived right now. They're trying to offset that negative image with paid advertising," he said.

## Crown Prince holds talks in Delhi

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan also voiced Jordan's pride in Iraq's victory in liberating its Fao peninsula. The Iraqi victory, he said, emphasised the Arab identity of Iraqi territories.

Prince Hassan also expressed hope that Iran would respond to calls for peace and to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

The Crown Prince also condemned the April 5 hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and said

the incident diverted attention from Arab action to liberate the usurped lands.

Prince Hassan also wished the heads of Arab missions success in their tasks to serve the goals of the Arab Nation.

The Qatari ambassador, who is the dean of the diplomatic corps in India, thanked Prince Hassan for the comprehensive briefing and said Prince Hassan's visit to India would further bolster and strengthen Arab-Indian relations, especially due to India's leading position in the Non-Aligned Movement.

## Chirac seeks to rally conservatives

(Continued from page 1)

many of Barre supporters would actually vote for Chirac. Polls indicate a significant number could cross over to Mitterrand

who has moved markedly to the centre.

Snap opinion polls say Mitterrand is comfortably headed for re-election against Chirac May 8.

## Israel closes Arab wholesalers

(Continued from page 1)

In the Gaza Strip, prominent Palestinian physician Hyder Abdul Shafi said army soldiers also were forcing people to report to tax offices even if they did not owe taxes.

"They have to wait on line for hours and hours standing in the sun," said Dr. Abdul Shafi. "It's the name of the game. They are putting pressure on residents. They are trying to make them give up."

Israeli police also confiscated the identity cards of several dozen Palestinians.

The seizure of the identity cards would bar the Palestinians from entering Israel, according to Israel Radio, which reported the Palestinians also were ordered to check in twice daily with Gaza police.

Officials said the strike-breaker operation was part of a concerted drive to take the initiative in putting down the Palestinian uprising in which 167 Palestinians have died.

In Gaza, troops raided the offices of the Lawyers' Association, the Workers' Union, the Women's Union, the Red Crescent Medical Aid Society and the Engineers' Association and took away dozens of files, Palestinian sources said.

"They confiscated all the files and papers which were in our offices," said Faez Abu Rahme, chairman of the Gaza Lawyers' Association. "They said they wanted to check all the papers."

The organisations are regarded as close to the PLO. Israeli forces are attempting to prevent PLO money from reaching strikers and families of those arrested in the uprising.

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# Soviet economic reforms face problems'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's economic reform programme ran into problems last year and things aren't likely to improve in the near future, U.S. intelligence agencies said in a report released Sunday.

Unless Gorbachev can do something to turn the economy around, he may find himself in trouble, said the bleak review, which was conducted jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Intelligence Agency.

"Tension within society and the leadership will increase," it said. "Bureaucrats will become increasingly frustrated by loss of privileges and status and by demands that they show greater initiative. Military leaders are likely to become more and more uneasy if benefits from the industrial modernisation fail to materialise."

"Soviet citizens will need to see some improvement in living standards if the regime is to achieve necessary gains in worker productivity and avoid widespread discontent," the study said.

The report concluded that "failure to head off these tensions would, at a minimum, make it

more difficult to pursue his economic programme vigorously and could, ultimately call into question his strong political position at home."

Gorbachev and supporters of his reforms have acknowledged resistance at the highest levels, and there have been reports in Moscow of conflict over reform measures between Gorbachev and no. 2 Kremlin leader Yegor K. Ligachev.

Criticism of the slow pace of Gorbachev's reforms earlier led to the firing of Boris N. Yeltsin as Moscow Communist Party boss. The U.S. intelligence study was presented April 13 to the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, and a declassified version was released by the panel.

The study is the annual review of the Soviet economy, three years after Gorbachev came to power. He inherited an aging, extremely inefficient economy and made its modernisation one

of his top priorities, the study noted.

After some early success, "Gorbachev's ambitious programme to create a modern, more dynamic Soviet economy ran into trouble in 1987," the study said.

"Familiar problems with poor weather and transportation bottlenecks were compounded by the disruptions caused by the introduction of economic reforms," it said.

The Soviet gross national product (GNP), the total value of all goods and services produced, grew only 0.5 per cent last year, the study noted. That rate was "reminiscent of the late Brezhnev period," it said, referring to Leonid Brezhnev, a Gorbachev predecessor who prevailed over a largely stagnant economy in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The study noted that the Soviet GNP grew by 3.9 per cent in 1986, the first full year of Gorbachev's term, compared with 0.6 per cent in 1985.

By contrast, the U.S. GNP grew 2.9 per cent, both in 1986 and 1987. However, the American economy measures a much larger base and comparisons are difficult.

The Soviet economy was hampered by bad weather last year, particularly in agriculture, where output fell three per cent, the study said.

But industrial quality control measures also "proved to be particularly disruptive, especially early in the year." Thus, industry only grew 1.5 per cent and the civilian machine-building sector didn't grow at all.

"The real loser in 1987 appeared to be the consumer, who — now three years into Gorbachev's economic programme — has seen almost no increase in his standard of living," the study said.

It also said that for a variety of reasons, "the short-term outlook for Gorbachev's economic programme is not good."

Among those reasons are confusion about guidelines for self-financing reforms, deficiencies in 1987 machine-building that will slow the speed of modernisation, transportation problems, and poor prospects for improved worker productivity.

Gorbachev also needs to be better organised, the study concluded. "Although Gorbachev's prog-



Mikhail Gorbachev

ramme is comprehensive, it is in some respects inconsistent, particularly with regard to timing. For example, his goals for an immediate acceleration in the growth of national income and a pronounced improvement in the quality of output are, in our view, fundamentally incompatible."

In addition, "his plan to change traditional economic planning and administrative procedures dramatically has been thrust upon a largely unprepared bureaucracy," the study said.

## Jordan Cement raises output

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) last year produced a total of 2,106,851 tonnes of cement at Fuhais and Rashadieh plants, thus registering an increase of 38 per cent over its 1986's production, according to a company report published in the local press Monday.

The report attributed the increase to the active production of the Rashadieh plant which went into full production capacity in the past year.

According to the report, the company last year sold a total of 1,633,870 tonnes of its cement for local consumption in Jordan, thus registering an increase of 51,508 tonnes over the 1986 figures.

But the sales in 1987 were unlike those made by the company between 1983 and 1986 when the local market bought less quantities of the company's cement, the report noted.

It said that the 1987 figures are encouraging, and point to a positive development in the construction business in the country.

The company still encounters heavy competition on the world markets, and is still unable to market considerable quantities of its cement there, the report pointed out.

It said that the company is striving to find new markets for its product and to increase the exported quantities.

It noted that the company sold 731,586 tonnes to world markets last year, far less than the management has aspired.

But, it said, it is hoped that 1988 will witness a rise in the amounts of exported cement which would enhance the company's self confidence.

It pointed to the fact that the company is now enjoying a government subsidy at the rate of JD 2.15 on every exported tonne of cement, something which would be instrumental in raising the company's income.

According to the report, Egypt last year pledged to import 750,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement of which 645,125 tonnes have been shipped, but the report noted that transportation difficulties are impeding further shipments.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 25, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
<b>Regular market:</b>	146070	JD 195862	308
<b>Top three companies:</b>			
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	29063	JD 34450	54
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	11850	JD 27643	45
Universal Chemical Industries	14500	JD 19065	61
<b>Parallel market:</b>	74088	JD 37780	—
<b>Development bonds:</b>	—	—	—
<b>Treasury bills &amp; bonds:</b>	—	—	—
<b>Other debentures:</b>	—	—	—

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.8810/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2300/10	Canadian dollar
	1.6733/43	Deutschmarks
	1.8779/84	Dutch guilders
	1.3840/50	Swiss francs
	34.98/35.01	Belgian francs
	5.6870/6900	French francs
	1243/1245	Italian lire
	124.65/75	Japanese yen
	5.8620/70	Swedish crowns
	6.1660/1710	Norwegian crowns
	6.4280/4330	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	450.10/450.60	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Market closed for ANZAC Day holiday.

TOKYO — Share prices closed on a new peak on momentum carried over from Saturday, despite some late profit-taking. The Nikkei index climbed 155.08, or 0.57 per cent, to close at 27,213.45 after a high of 27,262.28.

HONG KONG — Prices closed higher spurred by Wall Street's surge and continued speculative buying of H.K. land shares. The Hang Seng Index rose 32.4, 1.25 per cent, to 2,623.75.

PARIS — Prices rebounded from morning lows but were still down in the wake of Sunday's first French presidential election poll. The 50-share bourse indicator declined by 1.72 per cent.

LONDON — Shares traded narrowly ahead of British economic figures due this week. At 1458 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 2.8 at 1,774.4.

NEW YORK — Stocks were higher in very light trade. Blue chips moved ahead again after falling back from early highs. The Dow rose 11 to 2,026.

## Paris stock market falls sharply

PARIS (R) — Shares fell sharply on the Paris Bourse Monday following a split in a right-wing vote and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's poor performance in the first round of the French presidential election, dealers said.

Chirac won just under 20 per cent of the vote Sunday, compared with his target of 25 per cent, to trail incumbent Socialist President Francois Mitterrand who took 34 per cent.

But the big surprise of the first round was a surge in support for extreme right-wing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who polled 14.6 per cent compared with pre-election forecasts placing him in the 10 to 12 per cent range.

"Le Pen took votes from both Chirac and (former prime minister Raymond) Barre. He is in a strong bargaining position and the market won't like that," analyst Jean-Pierre Pinatton of brokers Pinatton said.

The French bond and financial futures markets followed the stock market lower in response to the election results, while the French franc weakened slightly against the mark.

The franc was fixed at 339.70 francs per 100 marks compared with Friday's fix of 339.60, after touching the 340 level earlier in

the morning, while bonds were trading around 60 basis points lower than Friday's levels. The dollar was set at 5.6880 francs against 5.6770 Friday.

"The reaction of the market was predictable — the results are more favourable for the left-wing than the right," Gabriel Francois, chief economist at state-owned Banque Nationale De Paris (BNP) said.

"The reaction is also linked to the fact that last week the market was deluding itself," he added, referring to speculation that last-minute public opinion polls were showing a strong surge in support for Chirac.

On the stock market the 50-share bourse indicator opened the continuous session 1.8 per cent down and fell quickly in brisk morning trading to show a 3.1 per cent decline.

But some buying from foreign investors, taking advantage of cheap stock, helped stabilise prices and the bourse indicator was around two per cent lower in early afternoon trading.

Blue chips, which fell Monday after a wave of buying last week, included car group Peugeot S.A. down 18 francs (\$3.16) to 1,033 francs (\$181.60), insurance group

Cie Du Midi S.A. down 42 francs (\$7.38) to 1,748 francs (\$307.30) and tyre group Cie Generale Des Ets Michelin down 4.50 francs (79 cents) to 183.50 (\$32.50).

But a strike at Michelin and disappointment over lower-than-expected 1987 dividend payments by Peugeot probably also contributed to the falls, dealers said.

"There is still great uncertainty (over the second round result on May 8) and the economy does not react well to uncertainty," Societe Generale economist Alain Marais said.

"This uncertainty threatens to block the trend towards lower interest rates in France," he added, noting political uncertainty was likely to persist beyond the second round.

However the Bank of France resisted any temptation to lift rates when it left its money market interest rate unchanged at 7.25 per cent Monday, as it injected liquidity into the market to help calm some post-election nerves.

"No one wants to sit around as things get bleaker over the next two weeks," one broker said in a reference to the period before the second round between Mitterrand and Chirac.

## Lawson favours halting appreciation of sterling

LONDON (AP) — Britain's top treasury official said Sunday he does not want to see a further rise in the pound, whose strength sparked a disagreement with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over the government's exchange rate policy.

"I certainly do not want to see the exchange rate appreciate further," Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said in a British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) television interview. "It would be unsustainable."

Lawson said that would damage business and industry.

The pound had been rising strongly since March, when it broke through three Deutsche marks, a rate which the government had closely guarded through intervention for about a year. The pound stood at 3.16 marks, or \$1.89, Friday.

The government's failure to step in and curtail the pound's

rise pointed to the disagreement between Lawson and Thatcher.

Thatcher, a strong believer in free-market policies, has declared low inflation as her principal economic goal and has said that continued intervention to curtail the pound's rise would be inflationary.

Lawson advocates a stable exchange rate, through the use of central bank intervention and interest rate manipulation. Such stability promotes economic stability and makes Britain's exports competitive, he says.

"We are certainly interested in the maximum possibility of exchange rate stability within the context of sound anti-inflation policy," Lawson said on BBC's "This Week Next Week" current affairs programme.

"Low inflation is what we've got. I am determined that it won't go up," he said in the wide-ranging interview.

## Record number of Europeans expected to visit U.S.

FRANKFURT (AP) — Spurred by the low dollar and cheaper air fares, Europeans from Scandinavia to Spain are rediscovering the new world and are expected to set a new record this year for U.S. visits.

Tourist visa applications are flooding U.S. consulates across Western Europe, and tour operators say the number of bookings is sharply up from last year's record.

"The numbers (of visa applicants) are increasing dramatically," said Ira Levy, chief of the non-immigrant visa branch at the U.S. embassy in London.

Donald Mudd, chief of consular services at the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt, said the consulate issued about 600,000 tourist visas last year.

"We expect a 30-50 per cent rise this year and this pretty much reflects the rest of Western Europe," Mudd told the Associated Press.

The Association of European

Airlines, which includes 21 major airline companies, said the total number of Europeans flying to the United States has increased about 48 per cent since 1985.

According to the latest statistics available to the Brussels-based association, 7.2 million Europeans took flights to the United States from January to October 1987.

Officials across Western Europe polled by the AP said the first two months of this year indicate that 1988 will be a boom year for travel to the United States.

Britain and West Germany provide the bulk of tourists visiting the United States and the two countries are expected to combine for nearly two million U.S. trips this year.

Levy said the number of non-immigrant visas issued in Britain for the United States was expected to reach 900,000 this year from 642,000 in 1987.

## Sri Lankan economy contracts

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's economy, plagued by ethnic unrest and adverse weather, grew by two per cent last year compared to 4.3 per cent in 1986, a government report said Monday.

The Census and Statistics Department in its annual accounts for 1987 said a slowing down of agriculture led to the overall low growth in the gross domestic product.

"Reduced level of production of tree crops due to a severe drought, ethnic disturbances and unfavourable world market prices were among the factors that contributed to this uneven performance," the report, obtained by Reuters, said.

Economists said major crops were all hit by the drought in the 12 months from mid-1986 while a Tamil separatist rebellion hindered rice production in northern and eastern areas.

They said defence spending, because of the guerrilla war, rose to 8.4 billion rupees (\$280 million) in 1987 from 7.8 billion rupees (\$260 million) in the previous year.

The report said the consumer price index, which measures in-

flation, rose to 10.2 per cent in 1987 from 9.1 per cent in the previous year.

Imports were worth 69.2 billion rupees (\$2.3 million) in 1986 while exports were valued at 48.5 billion rupees (\$1.6 million) up from 42.5 billion rupees (\$1.4 million).

Tea, for decades the island's biggest foreign-exchange earner, was beaten for the second year by textiles where earnings topped 12.8 billion rupees (\$425 million) against 9.6 billion rupees (\$320 million) in 1986.

The textile industry recorded its highest growth, 27.6 per cent, in 1987 against 5.2 per cent in the previous year, the report said.

Tea earnings totalled 10.6 billion rupees (\$350 million), up from 9.2 billion rupees (\$305 million) in 1986. Production rose marginally to 213.3 million kilograms from 211.3 million kilograms

in 1986.

Rice production fell to 101.9 million bushels from 124.3 million bushels due to lower harvests and transport problems in the north and east where Tamil rebels are most active.

Crude-oil imports rose to 1.7 million tonnes in 1987 from 1.6 million tonnes in 1986.

Exports of crude-oil products by the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation rose to 676.2 million rupees (\$22.5 million) from 609.2 million rupees (\$20 million).

The number of tourists visiting Sri Lanka fell to 200,000 from 230,100 in 1986 due to ethnic disturbances in the north and east and civil unrest in the south, the report said.

However, foreign-exchange earnings from tourism rose marginally to 2.2 billion rupees (\$73 million) from 2.1 billion rupees (\$70 million) in 1986.

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## U.S. team on Mount Kanchenjunga

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A U.S. expedition scaling the main peak of Mount Kanchenjunga has established its camp one at a height of 5,800 metres (19,024 feet), according to a report reaching here Monday. The U.S. team earlier set up base camp at the 4,980-metre (16,334-foot) level April 3 and pitched their camp one five days later, the report said. The 14-member expedition, led by Carlos P. Buhler, 34, a mountain guide from Bellingham, Washington, is making its assault on the 8,586-metre (28,162-foot) peak along the north ridge.

## Lonely Bird wins Italian Guineas

ROME (R) — Lonely Bird, ridden by the up and coming Luca Sorrentino, was an easy six length winner of the Premio Regina Elena (Italian 1,000 Guineas) at the Capannelle Sunday. Steve Cauthen's Mount Fire of Star made a brave attempt to make all the running and, although she was cut down to size by the winner two furlongs out, she held on to be second ahead of Lyme Bay. The two English challengers Inchemurri, ridden by Pat Eddery, and Willie Carson's Mount Thaidah, finished fourth and fifth. The winner paid a compliment to ex-Italian colt Tibullo, who put himself back into contention for Saturday's English 2,000 Guineas after working well at Newmarket at the weekend. In four previous races Lonely Bird's only defeat had been at the hands of Tibullo in the Gran Criterium at San Siro last October.

## Zambia beats Kenya 4-1

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Zambia's Kabwe Warriors trounced Kenya's Shabana 4-1 Sunday in the first round, return leg, of the Africa Cup of Champions Soccer Tournament. The victory qualified the Warriors for the second round of the competition on an aggregate score of 4-2. Two weeks ago, Shabana defeated Kabwe Warriors 1-0 in the western Kenyan town of Kisii. In Sunday's match, the Zambians took the lead in the 15th minute with a goal from center forward Noel Chama. Two minutes later, left fullback Wilson Changwe made it 2-0. The home team, capitalizing on Shabana's feeble defence and poor finishing, scored the third goal through right fullback James Chitalu. In the 60th minute, Kabwe Warriors were awarded a penalty and Changwe fired a shot past Shabana goalie Mike Okoth. The Kenyans got their lone goal in the last minute of the game through inside right Richard Otambo. The competition is an annual event featuring Africa's Club Champions.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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## SCRAMBLED SPOTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
A 10 4 3  
7 10 6 4  
A 7 6 4 3  
3

**WEST**  
Q 7 6  
K J  
9  
A Q J 10 9 6 5 K 7 4

**EAST**  
J 9 8 5 2  
Q 9 8 3  
2  
K 7 4

**SOUTH**  
K 7 5 2  
K Q J 10 8 5  
8 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 2 3 4  
2 3 4 5  
4 5 6 7  
5 6 7 8

Opening lead: King of 7.

While a spot or two in the hand might make little difference in the bidding, intermediate cards can have a dramatic outcome on the play of a hand. Switch the 10 and 9 of hearts on this hand, and you would have a radically different result.

The auction doesn't thrill us, but that's how it went in a New York segment of the Grand National Team Championship. East's double was responsive, i.e., for takeout. It showed the major suits and a limited holding. Some of South's actions are a mystery to us.

Since East was marked with hearts, West tried the king of hearts as his opening lead. It might seem that East-West now must come to two heart tricks and a club, but the heart tricks proved impossible to unscramble as declarer. Jarad Lilenstein of Flushing, N.Y., read the hand perfectly.

He won the ace of hearts, crushed the king of spades and crossed to dummy by overtaking the king of diamonds, drawing the outstanding trumps in the process. On the ace of spades he discarded a club! After ruffing a spade high, he overtook his five of trumps as the entry to ruff the last spade, then exited with a club.

It made no difference which defender won that trick. In the event, West took the club, and he continued with the jack of hearts. But that was the second and last trick for the defenders. East could not afford to overtake the jack of hearts, because that would set up the table's ten. But when West was allowed to hold the heart, his forced club return allowed declarer to discard his remaining heart loser from the board while ruffing in hand.

## TRACK AND FIELD

## Stewart upsets Lewis in 100 metres dash

WALNUT, California (R) — American Carl Lewis, in his 1988 outdoor debut, began his quest for more Olympic gold with a disastrous start and a disappointing fifth-place finish in the 100 metres dash Sunday at the 30th annual Mt. San Antonio College Athletics Relays.

Lewis, who hopes to regain the title of "world's fastest human" from his archrival Ben Johnson of Canada, was never a factor as the race was won by Jamaica's Raymond Stewart in 10.13 seconds. Lewis finished with a 10.29 clocking.

"My starting block slipped around six inches," said Lewis, the winner of four gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. "I expected the starter to call us back but I can't make them run it over. I slipped, then hesitated expecting the second gun to go off."

The day-long gathering also marked the return to competitive athletics of American sprinter Ron Brown, a member of the U.S. gold medal-winning 4x100 Olympic relay team.

Brown, who had been playing professional football for the Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League for three years until his retirement last week, ran the second leg in a 4x100 metres relay, which his team won in 39.09 seconds.

"It felt a little strange to hear the gun go off, but once I got the baton it seemed to be okay," said Brown, who continues to feel he can outdo both Lewis and Johnson.

The most exciting event of the day was another relay event, the men's 4x400 metres race, pitting on the anchor leg Americans Danny Everett and Butch Reynolds, the first and third place finishers in the 400 metres at the World Championships last year in Italy.

Everett took the baton ten metres ahead of Reynolds. By the time they hit the wire they were virtually even.

Everett was able to barely hold on, posting a time for his team of 3:00.81 while Reynolds' team was clocked in 3:00.88.

Everett himself won the 400 metre race in 45.37 seconds. Reynolds did not compete in that event.

In the men's discus event, 1976 American Olympic gold medalist Mac Wilkins finished first with a toss of 67.96 metres. Former East German star Wolfgang Schmidt, now competing for West Germany, was third with a toss of 62.90.

The women's events were highlighted by Ramona Pagel, who set a New American record in the shotput with a toss of 19.36 metres.

## Newcomers surprise at U.S. Olympic Marathon trials

In Jersey City, New Jersey, marathon newcomers mark Conover and Ed Eyestone, thriving in windy conditions on a hilly course, surprised the favourites Sunday to finish first and second in the U.S. Olympic Men's Marathon trials.

Pete Pfitzinger was third among about 100 runners in the New Jersey Waterfront Marathon, earning the final spot on the U.S. team for the Seoul Olympics this autumn.

Running in only his second marathon, Conover pulled away from Eyestone at the 25-mile mark and covered the 26-mile, 385-yard course in two hours 12 minutes and 26 seconds.

The two had shared the lead, breaking away from the front pack of a half dozen runners at the 19-mile mark.

"I just went out and ran and everything came together. This is the thrill of my life so far," said Conover.

The 27-year-old Conover won \$50,000 in the first U.S. Olympic marathon trial race to offer prize money.

Eyestone, 26, running his third marathon, came second in 2:12:49 and won \$25,000. "I didn't consider myself a marathoner before this," he said.

## FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1988

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You will have to use a considerable amount of tact in order to keep a difficult situation from mushrooming into a major problem. Be sure to keep any agreements you have made, and pay attention to details.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** Work on finding a way to improve your efficiency this morning, and don't let a minor delay keep you from handling more important matters.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** Some plans you have made for fun with your friends may be disrupted by a monetary problem. Avoid a greedy associate tonight.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** If you decide to get involved in a new recreation, make sure it isn't too expensive. Make time for a chat with a favorite family member.

**MONO CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21)** Take care of important telephone calls and correspondence early today. Don't do anything to upset your mate this evening.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** If you let a silly acquaintance get under your skin, you could miss out on a great opportunity. Don't be forceful in trying to achieve your goals.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** This is not a good day to ask any favors of your superiors. Your mood will improve if you seek out the company of your good friends.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Before you start on a new project, make sure you won't become bored halfway through it. It is important that you drive with care.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** If a good friend of yours is feeling somewhat disgruntled, encourage this person to rely more on his or her own fine abilities.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Don't dispute the directives of a person in a position of power. Pay particular attention to credit and other financial matters.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Don't allow a self-serving co-worker to annoy you or break your concentration. A trip may be coming up soon, so be ready for this.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** You have made several promises to friends, so be sure you are filled in on the details. Make sure you don't spend too much money tonight.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** You should be particularly gentle with your family and friends this evening, or you could find yourself involved in a big argument.

## THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chyka

ACROSS

1 Curriculum unit  
7 Borneo  
14 Plunder  
15 Haulboy  
16 — Get a Secret  
17 Embassies  
18 Lowdown  
19 Sandwich type  
20 Shy  
21 Unfortunate  
24 Gladden  
25 Slazy  
27 Delay  
30 Explosive  
32 Diamond  
33 Rap's foe  
34 Eng. city  
37 Assistant  
40 Dr. shipping magnets  
42 Some horse-shoe losses  
44 Ma Barrett  
45 Printing type  
47 Werther  
48 Brain  
49 TV network  
50 Take to court  
51 Crinkled fabric  
52 Thin linen  
53 Hackneyed  
57 Elite  
60 Dime  
61 Social  
62 Loud sound  
63 Vestigial wings  
66 Table scrap  
68 Golf club  
70 — broil  
71 "Norma"  
72 Appends  
73 Single Swiss style

DOWN

1 Stuff  
2 Anger  
3 Sword  
4 Small  
5 Bank money: abbr.  
6 Inventor  
7 Remark  
8 Busy as  
9 Bank deal  
10 Of the mind  
11 Not accept as  
12 Egg  
13 Surgeant  
14 Sowers  
15 Adherent of a Christian priest  
16 Norms  
17 Small  
18 Allen: pref.  
19 Free  
20 Bank workers  
21 12  
22 Defendants in Roman law  
23 Let fall  
24 Sord of old  
25 Fur  
26 Book man: abbr.  
27 Seasons  
28 Former Eur. kingdom  
29 Give back  
30 Teacher  
31 "Norma" e.g. music  
32 Boot country  
33 Rope  
34 Cross  
35 The Tea Stopp  
36 Car. prison  
37 Capitol Hill  
38 misc. abbr.  
39 Card game

## NBA STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Final standings of National Basketball Association (NBA) teams:

Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
X-Boston Celtics	57	25	.695	—
X-Detroit Pistons	54	28	.659	3
X-Atlanta Hawks	50	32	.610	7
X-Chicago Bulls	50	32	.610	7
X-Milwaukee Bucks	42	40	.512	15
X-Cleveland Cavaliers	42	40	.512	15
X-Washington Bullets	38	44	.463	19
X-New York Knicks	38	44	.463	19
Indiana Pacers	38	44	.463	19
Philadelphia 76ers	36	46	.439	21
New Jersey Nets	19	63	.232	38

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
X-Los Angeles Lakers	62	20	.756	—
X-Denver Nuggets	54	28	.659	8
X-Portland Trail Blazers	53	29	.646	9
X-Dallas Mavericks	52	29	.642	9½
X-Utah Jazz	47	35	.573	15
X-Houston Rockets	46	36	.561	16
X-Seattle SuperSonics	44	38	.537	18
X-San Antonio Spurs	31	50	.383	30½
Phoenix Suns	28	54	.341	34
Sacramento Kings	24	58	.293	38
Golden State Warriors	20	62	.244	42
Los Angeles Clippers	17	65	.207	46
X-Clinched Playoff Berth				

## BASEBALL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Major league baseball standings after Sunday's games:

American League Eastern Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland Indians	14	4	.778	—
New York Yankees	13	5	.722	1
Boston Red Sox	11	5	.688	2
Detroit Tigers	9	7	.563	4
Toronto Blue Jays	9	8	.529	4½
Milwaukee Brewers	7	8	.467	5½
Baltimore Orioles	0	18	.000	14

Western Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland Athletics	12	7	.632	—
Kansas City Royals	9	8	.529	2
Chicago White Sox	9	9	.500	2½
Seattle Mariners	9	10	.474	3
Texas Rangers	7	10	.412	4
California Angels	7	11	.389	4½
Minnesota Twins	5	11	.313	5½

National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh Pirates	13	4	.765	—
New York Mets	11	6	.647	2
Montreal Expos	8	8	.500	4½
Chicago Cubs	7	10	.412	6
Philadelphia Phillies	6	10	.375	6½
St. Louis Cardinals	5	12	.294	8

Western Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles Dodgers	11	4	.733	—
Houston Astros	10	7	.588	2
Cincinnati Reds	10	8	.556	2½
San Francisco Giants	9	9	.500	3½
San Diego Padres	7	9	.438	4½
Atlanta Braves	3	13	.188	8½

## Evert overpowers Navratilova to win Houston tennis title

HOUSTON (Agencies) — Chris Evert abruptly halted top-seeded Martina Navratilova's 29-match winning streak Sunday and prevented the world's second-ranked player from winning her sixth consecutive tournament.

Evert, the second seed, clinched her third consecutive Houston title and her fifth overall with a 6-0, 6-4 victory in the final of the \$250,000 Houston Women's Tennis Championship.

The top-seeded duo of Navratilova and Lori McNeil lost the doubles final to second-seeded Americans Zina Garrison and Katrina Adams 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 6-4.

Evert, who has beaten Navratilova in their last two confrontations, treated her like one of the lesser-ranked opponents Evert had handily eliminated earlier in the week.

Playing her steady, errorless baseline game to perfection, Evert extended her clay-court record against Navratilova to 11 wins, three losses in the 60-minute long match. She also closed her career win-loss gap against Navratilova to 40-37.

Her superior shot selection and consistency combined with Navratilova's uncharacteristically high 47 unforced errors made Navratilova's game totally ineffective.

Evert precisely whizzed her down-the-line passing shots to the corners, preventing Navratilova from dominating at the net. Evert also took advantage of the windy conditions, whereas the wind hindered Navratilova's serve and volley game.

In addition to making 33 more unforced errors than Evert, Navratilova had no aces, six double faults and made only 51 per cent of her first serves.

"When you're not serving well, you can't move her around," Navratilova said. "It's like a pitcher who can't find the strike zone. You can't fool the hitter."

"I didn't serve enough first serves to make her guess and to have any semblance of a serve and volley game," said Navratilova.

Evert won \$50,000 and Navratilova \$22,000.

In the second game of the first set, Navratilova lost her serve on a game point double fault and was broken again by Evert in the fourth and sixth games.

Navratilova's first win of the match came when she held serve in the second game of the second set by lobbing the ball over Evert at the net.

The two players held their respective serves until Navratilova broke Evert in the seventh game on a cross-court forehand to go ahead, 4-3.

Evert broke Navratilova, held her serve, and Navratilova's double fault ended the match.

"She had the momentum going for her at 4-3 and started to play well," Evert said. "And I feel I just closed out the match. I didn't choke."

The loss broke a string of five consecutive tournament title victories for Navratilova, who was disheartened by her performance. "I am still trying to figure out what happened tonight," she said. "I don't know whether to laugh or cry, I was so pitiful."

## Budd still in dilemma

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd Sunday described herself as a "political pawn" as confusion deepened surrounding her athletics future.

The south African-born runner said she was "very disappointed" that she would not be able to compete for a month following her suspension by the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) while it investigates her eligibility.

"I have been a political pawn," she said. "I want to clear my name as soon as possible and want the whole thing cleared up as quickly as possible."

Her coach John Bryant declared that he was encouraged by the day's developments.

"I don't think the world looks as black as it did this time last week," said Bryant.

Budd was also in a "much more positive frame of mind than she was last weekend," he said.

He welcomed the BAAB's creation of the committee of inquiry to probe allegations she took part in athletics meetings in South Africa last year.

"Any inquiry which is going to get at the truth has got to be good news and the fuller it is, the less of a case there will be to answer. There isn't any new evidence that Zola can fear," Bryant said.

"I don't know what's going to happen and I'm not in the business of making predictions. But we won't give up the fight."

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I have to adjust the setting on the new shower massage."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TADAP

BUTOD

LISWEY

DEWLOP

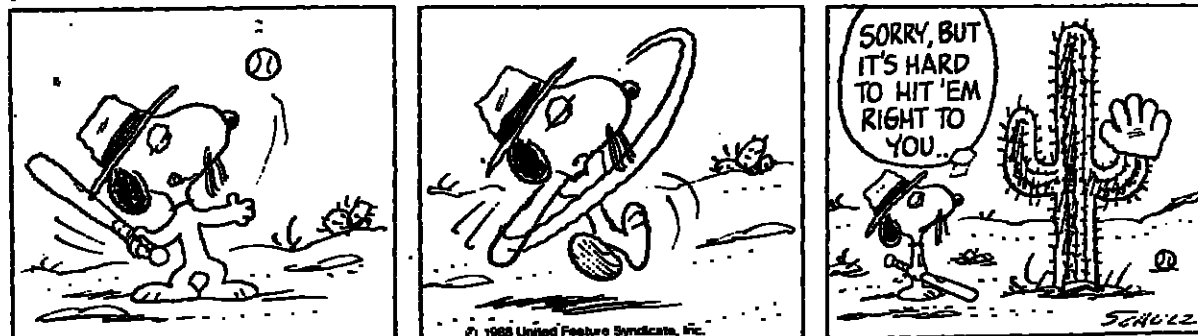
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THEY

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXACT BOGUS SIPHON REALITY  
Answer: What kind of a career did that crooked sculptor carve out for himself? — A CHISELER'S

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp





11 hostages taken by separatists released

# Kanak fatally shot in clash with French

NOUMEA (R) — A young Kanak woman was shot dead Monday, hours after French gendarmes were ordered to show no mercy to gunmen in the French-ruled South Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Leopold Jorodier, a Kanak separatist leader, said he considered the Paris government had "declared colonial war" with its announcement that gendarmes would fire back if shot at.

The Melanesian teenager was the first Kanak to die this year in an incident involving police.

On Sunday, an officer was shot in Canala while guarding a polling station.

Three gendarmes were killed by armed separatists on the tiny atoll of Ouvéa Friday. A fourth died of his wounds in a Sydney hospital Sunday.

Early Monday, 11 gendarmes were released after 72 hours in the hands of the separatists. The search for a remaining 16 police hostages continued in the thick forests on Ouvéa.

The captured men were taken Friday as part of the Kanaks' plans to disrupt Sunday's local government elections and to highlight their fight for independence.

In the elections, the right-wing RPCR Party linked to French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac took control of all four regional assemblies in the territory. The Kanak Melanesian separatists previously controlled three.

The teenage woman was killed

during a gunbattle between police and separatists in the village of Canala, where seven gendarmes were shot and wounded Sunday, a spokesman for the French High Commission said.

He said gendarmes trying to leave the police station exchanged fire with separatists laying siege to the building. When the separatists scattered, the body of the 17-year-old was found, he said.

Kanak sources said the woman was 300 metres from the incident when she was hit by a shot which they believed came from a police car.

France's Minister for Overseas Territories Bernard Pons, sent to Noumea after Friday's attack, told reporters shortly after arriving that the government would do everything necessary to contain violence in the territory.

Pons said he believed there were four Kanaks on Ouvéa who had spent time in Libya. One had undertaken some kind of military training there, he added.

"Everyone who wants to use violence should know I have given instructions that anyone attacking the security forces should be neutralised," Pons said.

"The gendarmes have received orders to use every means, and, in particular, I have told them to answer gunfire with gunfire," Pons said.

## No difference

Jorodier, number three in the Kanak National Socialist Liberation Front (FLKNS), reacted strongly: "With this policy there is now no difference between Israeli soldiers who shoot at Palestinian children and the French gendarmes in New Caledonia."

Pons said the 11 hostages had been released unharmed when the kidnappers released the security forces were close. None of the kidnappers was caught, he said.

French officials are maintaining a strict silence about events on Ouvéa, where about 300 gendarmes under the command of an army general are combing the atoll.

Radio reports speak of security forces arresting 10 people and cutting off any movement in and out of the northern half of the atoll where the search is concentrated.

Reporters in the Melanesian-dominated east of the main island say roads are cut in many places by roadblocks.

At Bourail, on the west coast of the main island, white settlers have put up roadblocks, the first reported to have been erected by pro-French loyalists.

# Le Pen hails political 'earthquake' as extreme right surge shocks France

By Alan Philips  
Reuter

PARIS — An unexpected surge by the extreme right in the presidential election has shocked mainstream parties and set off a wave of heartsearching over why France is out of step with the rest of Europe.

National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who has campaigned to expel immigrants from France, took the political establishment by storm by picking up over 14 per cent of the popular vote in the first ballot.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

"An earthquake has shaken the political landscape," he told cheering supporters.

"I am worried. This vote reflects a mixture of fear, passion and a desire to exclude," said centre-right Culture Minister Francois Leotard. "But no one can believe that 15 per cent of France is fascist. That is simply not true."

Le Pen's score was not enough to take him into the second round run-off on May 8 — to be fought between Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and Conservative

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. But pollsters believe it puts him in such a strong position to put pressure on the ruling centre-right coalition to come to a deal with the former paratrooper if Chirac is to have any chance of unseating Mitterrand.

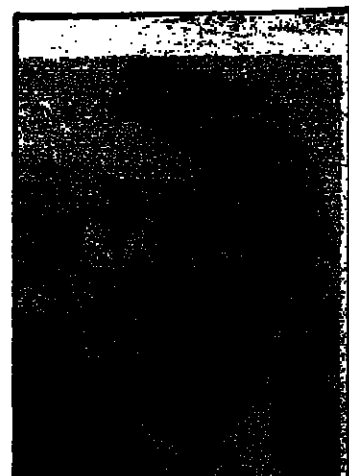
Le Pen, who picked up only 0.7 per cent of the popular vote when he last stood for the presidency in 1974 and 10 per cent in the 1986 parliamentary elections, said: "From now on, nothing can be done without the National Front nor against its wishes."

In a triumphant mood at his mansion in the Paris suburb of Saint Cloud, he rounded on pollsters, who failed to predict the extent of Le Pen's surge, accusing them of a disinformation campaign.

Jerome Jaffre, chief pollster with the Sofres Opinion Research Organisation, said France was the only country in Western Europe where the extreme right was growing year by year.

"There was an eruption of the extreme right in West Germany and Britain in the early 1970s, but it never reached this level," he said.

Le Pen's success raised new



Jean-Marie Le Pen

obstacles in the way of Chirac's presidential ambitions. Chirac had tried to attract both the centre and the extreme right in a balancing act which apparently satisfied neither.

The right blamed Mitterrand for prompting Le Pen's surge by raising the touchy subject of votes for immigrants in local elections.

The Socialist president said during the campaign that he broached the subject to lay a trap for Chirac — a strategem which

has apparently worked to perfection.

"What is serious is that Mitterrand presented an opportunity for this kind of reaction to develop," said Social Affairs Minister Philippe Seguin.

He said Le Pen's supporters were also reacting against violence in the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia, where four gendarmes were killed by Kanak (ethnic Melanesian) rebels seeking to disrupt the vote.

Le Pen now appears to have captured the protest vote which for decades was held by the Communist Party. Its candidate, Andre Lajoie, garnered only about seven per cent, a historic low for a party which used to command in one in four votes in France.

Culture Minister Leotard put the Le Pen vote down to the fact that many of the electorate were bored with the two leading candidates — both well known figures who have held top office.

He said that having registered their protest vote in the first round against the increasing centrism in French politics, they would return to traditional politicians in the second round.

## No happy-ending for Eva, Adolf

MUNICH (R) — The last letter written by Adolf Hitler's lover Eva Braun before she committed suicide was sold to a foreign collector for 13,500 marks (\$8,800) at a Munich auction house Saturday. The passport of Braun, who married the Nazi dictator on April 29, 1945, in his Berlin bunker a few days before their deaths, also raised 13,500 marks at the same sale, the Hermann Historica auction house said. Braun wrote the letter to her sister Gretl on April 23, 1945, a few days before she killed herself by taking poison. "Our end can come any minute and I want to make use of my last opportunity to tell you a few things," Braun told her sister in the two-page, typewritten letter. "You must take the necklace that the fuhrer (Hitler) gave me for my last birthday... the fuhrer himself no longer believes a happy end is possible... but naturally we do not intend to let ourselves be captured alive." A watercolour painting which Hitler painted in 1945 also came under the hammer at the Munich auction for a price of 17,000 marks (\$10,180).

## Hiding out... for 44 years

MOSCOW (R) — A World War II Soviet army deserter hid for 44 years in the cellar of his wife's home in a Ukrainian farming village, emerging only occasionally at night, a Moscow newspaper reported Sunday. It said the man, Ivan Kondratyenko, was discovered at the end of January by police investigating a fire in the village of Shevchenkovo, near the city of Kontop, northeast of Kiev. According to the newspaper, Kondratyenko was a healthy 25-year-old when he first took refuge in the cellar and emerged as skinny, bent old man with grey hair and an ash-white face. The newspaper said he first deserted in the autumn of 1941, soon after the Soviet Union entered the war following its invasion by Nazi Germany, and set up house under German occupation with a local widow in Shevchenkovo. When the village was liberated by the advancing Soviet army in late 1943, Kondratyenko said, he was given a chance to redeem his offence and sent to the front, but within two months deserted again and returned home. Both his son, born during the war, and his brother told police they had tried to persuade Kondratyenko to give himself up but he consistently refused, the newspaper added. It gave no indication whether he had been arrested or would face legal charges. The Soviet Union has no statute of limitations on offences committed during World War II.

## Before you gross people out

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese have developed a machine that detects bad breath. The Iki-Iki sensor, the breath checker developed by the Grelan Pharmaceutical Company, measures mouth gas to determine whether breath smells "good, fair, poor or bad." If the sensor says your breath is poor, you'd better clean your teeth or wash your mouth with oral deodorant. If it says bad, you'd better see your dentist, a company official said. The company plans to start sales of the machines in May and to export them to Europe in the future, he added. The machines will retail for 16,000 yen (\$130).

## It wasn't alright

MACON, Georgia (AP) — A man who set his gasoline-soaked clothes on fire and walked down the aisle of a church during a prayer service died Sunday from his burns, though worshippers tried to save him by dousing the flames. The songs of a children's choir gave way to hysterical screams as worshippers at Friendship Baptist Church noticed Willie J. Boone, 41, Saturday night's musical programme was almost over when "I saw the children looking curious and I looked back" from the first row, said the Rev. Jimmy L. Mills. "I saw this young man coming up the middle aisle, a blaze of fire. Most of the children went into hysterics," he said. "It was a terrible tragedy." The pastor said he and deacons used a fire extinguisher to douse the flames on the man's clothes "and asked him to go out and sit on the front porch and that's where he went until the police arrived." On the porch, Boone said, "It's all right," and collapsed. Mills said, Mills, pastor of the downtown Macon church for 30 years, said Boone gave no clue to his motive and was a stranger to the 40 to 50 people in the church sanctuary.

# Solis Palma names new cabinet ministers

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Facing tough economic conditions, Panama's civilian chief executive, Manuel Solis Palma, named seven new cabinet members to "confront the grave situation facing the nation."

But Solis Palma acknowledged in response to reporters' questions late Sunday that Panama's critical economic problems have been long in the making and are not only the result of U.S. economic sanctions against the country. "There are many things that are not new," Solis Palma told a news conference Sunday night after introducing the new members of his 12-member cabinet.

"These problems preceded General Manuel (Antonio) Noriega,"

Noriega, chief of Panama's Defence Forces, is under indictment in U.S. courts on charges of drug trafficking.

The U.S. government has been seeking Noriega's ouster since last summer, applying sanctions that have brought Panama's economy to its knees but have not yet budged the general.

Solis Palma said he would name new heads of some semi-autonomous agencies and departments Monday.

All ministers and department chiefs offered their resignations to him last week. The new ministers replace officials that Solis Palma inherited when he was replaced by President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

The legislative assembly, dominated by Noriega's supporters, fired Delvalle Feb. 26, one day after the president tried to dismiss Noriega. Solis Palma was named to run the government, with the title of Minister in Charge of the Presidency.

Solis Palma said the primary goal of his new administrative team would be to reopen the nation's banks, closed since March 4 because of a lack of money to cover withdrawals by panicky depositors.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party and a leading opposition figure, said Solis Palma's action appeared to be aimed at giving his administration legitimacy, "the impression that it is really a government."

"But I think it represents absolutely nothing really new for the public, for the opposition," Arias Calderon said. "It remains an illegal government, run by General Noriega and nothing more than that."

## Power cut

In another development, the state-run electric utility cut power Sunday to a U.S. embassy annex and the apartments of at least 45 of the mission's 180 American employees for non-payment of

their bills.

Workers from the Hydraulic and Electrical Resources Institute spent much of the day disconnecting electrical meters at apartments inhabited by embassy staff members, whose power bills have not been paid in more than two months.

Embassy Spokesman Terence Kneebone said the U.S. government has not paid bills for its employees because of economic sanctions against Panama.

Kneebone said the embassy and ambassador Arthur Davis' residence had power, although the electric bills for those facilities also had not been paid.

The annex that lost power houses administrative offices.

Most of the employees, whose power was cut, live in high-rise apartment buildings in an upper class ocean-side area.

Kneebone said the employees "are making do with flashlights, candles and so on."

Washington two weeks ago barred U.S. citizens and organisations from making any payments to the Panama government, in the latest U.S. economic sanctions applied in an effort to force out the general.

But Kneebone said the embassy, which pays the rent and utility bills of its U.S. employees, stopped making payments even earlier at the request of Delvalle.

# Family planning cuts births by 200 m in China

HONG KONG (AP) — Family planning has cut births in China by an estimated 200 million in recent years, but officials now see a surging population, an official report said.

A primary cause of the population rise, which is expected to last until at least 1995, is that people born in the baby boom years of 1962 to 1975 are reaching maturity, China's domestic China News Service said.

The report was based on an interview of State Family Planning Commission Minister Peng Peiyun, in the most recent edition of Outlook (Liaowang) magazine.

China, the world's most populous nation with more than 1 billion people, has estimated it must keep the birth rate below 1.5 per cent to reach its planned population limit of 1.2 billion at the turn of the century. But the birth rate was 2 per cent in each of the last two years.

In addition, the population of child-bearing women is expected to grow by 8 million this year to 297 million.

The news report said China's family planning policy, which limits the number of children per couple and promotes late childbearing, has cut births by 200 million since the 1970s.

Critics have charged that family planning also involved coerced abortions. Peng, while not referring directly to such claims, was quoted as saying foreigners who charge China's family planning violates humanitarian principles either have suspect intentions or "don't understand China's condition."

# Bombs explode in Dhaka at start of strike

DHAKA (R) — Five home-made bombs exploded in the Bangladesh capital Monday at the start of an eight-hour, opposition-led general strike aimed at disrupting the opening of parliament, where President Hussien Muhammad Ershad was to speak.

No injuries were reported from the bombs, which police said were made of metal fragments and explosives and set off in the Magbazar area.

Five thousand military police patrolled Dhaka in response to the strike call by 21 opposition parties.

Shops, offices and banks were shuttered during the strike. All private cars and commuters stayed off the streets. But government buses and a large number of Dhaka's 100,000 cycle rickshaws moved normally.

Officials said the strike did not

disrupt airlines, trains or ferry services.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Chief Nasrullah Khan ordered that anyone entering a (five-kilometre) radius of the parliament building would need a pass. He also banned movement of vehicles carrying arms and explosives in the area.

The 21 parties dub the new parliament as "fake" because they say it emerged through a rigged election on March 3. They had boycotted the election and asked Ershad to step down. They want him to hand over power to a caretaker government that would call fresh elections.

The government asked all parliament members and senior officials to stay in hotels adjacent to the parliament building in order to avoid being stranded during the strike.

# 18 injured, 3 missing in U.S. submarine blast

WASHINGTON (R) — Eighteen sailors were injured and three crewmen were missing after an explosion and fire aboard the diesel-powered submarine USS Bonfish, the U.S. Navy said Monday.

The vessel was abandoned by its crew following the explosion in the battery compartment of the vessel, which set off a fire late Sunday afternoon, said a Navy spokesman at Atlantic Fleet Headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ships in the vicinity, about 160 miles east of Cape Canaveral, Florida, were searching for the missing men throughout the night, said Lieutenant-Commander Bill Sonntag.

All of the injured from the Bonfish were transferred to the

aircraft carrier Kennedy and were being brought to the Naval base for medical treatment, he said. Three of the injured crewmen were listed in serious condition. He said 89 of the submarine's 92 crewmen were accounted for and the search continued throughout the night for the three missing sailors. "The search is still going on," he said.

Sonntag said, however, that there was no way of knowing whether the fire was still raging aboard the Bonfish. "The submarine is on the surface. We do not know whether or not the fire is out because all crewmen were evacuated," he said.

He said the cause of the explosion could not be determined until after the rescue ship had arrived.

## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

### White S. Africans launch anti-apartheid group

CAPE TOWN (R) — White South Africans launched a new anti-apartheid group Sunday and were told they could be placed under surveillance or even detained by the authorities because of their opposition to the government. Prominent anti-apartheid campaigner and lawyer Dullah Omar told about 100 people, mostly whites, at the launch of the Cape Democrats that the organisation would have a stormy life. "It has taken great courage to launch an organisation of this kind in a period of severe repression in which any action you take is going to be monitored. You will find yourself subject to surveillance. Hopefully, you will be able to prevent the situation of many of our compatriots who find themselves out of circulation because of their non-racial ideals," Omar said, referring to hundreds of activists detained without trial under emergency rule. The Cape Democrats is an extra-parliamentary group open to people of all races in Cape province. But it is mainly aimed at bringing more members of the white minority into the fight against apartheid.

### Problems plague Chernobyl on anniversary

MOSCOW (AP) — Sloppy repairs, drunkenness and nepotism are rampant at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, where managers act "as though there hasn't been an accident," Pravda said Sunday in an unusually critical report. Medics, teachers and veterinarians and people without any higher education were given engineering jobs at the plant, the Communist Party daily said on the second anniversary of the world's worst nuclear disaster. It also accused Chernobyl's managers of trying to "resolve at any cost" obstacles to full electricity production at the plant "to the detriment of the quality of repair and maintenance of extremely intricate equipment." The scathing attack was a departure from the numerous articles appearing in the Soviet press before Tuesday's anniversary of the April 26, 1986, explosion and fire at the power plant 130 kilometres north of Ukrainian capital of Kiev. The explosion spewed radiation around the world, forced the evacuation of 135,000 Soviets and killed 31 people. The previous stories have stressed the extensive safety equipment installed at the plant, improved worker training, the decrease of radiation to safe levels and return of people to surrounding areas.

### Britain's Communist Party revived

LONDON (AP) — The Communist Party of Britain reorganised Sunday after dissolving last year in disagreement over the direction it should take. Delegates from throughout Britain agreed at a congress Sunday that the newly formed party should operate under the rules that existed before the party's moderate wing won control in 1985. In 1985, the moderate faction won all 45 seats on the executive committee, routing the pro-Moscow faction and the party collapsed. The 150 delegates to Sunday's congress elected an executive committee of 39, which plans to hold its first meeting May 7. Card-carrying membership in the party was 10,350 in November 1987. Founded in 1920, the party had 50,000 members in 1945 but it has declined steadily and has not had a member in parliament for 38 years.

### African refugees now number 5 million

GAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — The number of refugees in Africa has risen from 4 million to 5 million in the past year, largely because of regional instability in southern Africa, a United Nations official said Sunday. The U.N. High Commission for Refugees representative in Nigeria, Sylvester Awuye, told the news agency of Nigeria that many Mozambicans had fled their homes due to the conflict which pits their government against the South African-backed Mozambique resistance movement. African states should individually and collectively deal with the root causes of the refugee problem by dismantling apartheid, South Africa's system of racial separation, and by solving disputes between communities and nations, Awuye said.

### Diarrhoea kills nearly 500 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — At least 500 people have died in Bangladesh since March in a diarrhoea epidemic caused by contaminated water and food, doctors said Sunday. They said most victims were from the southern Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna districts and Pabna in the north. Three thousand people had so far been infected and hospitals were receiving hundreds of patients every day. The doctors added that shortages of staff and medicine was hampering treatment.

### Obando sees U.S.-Sandinista talks

MANAGUA (AP) — The archbishop of Nicaragua says he believes the United States and Nicaragua's Sandinista government ultimately will hold talks despite U.S. President Ronald Reagan's staunch support of the contra rebels. Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo said Sunday that peace talks between the government and the rebels may be a prelude to bilateral talks between the Sandinistas and the United States. "I am not a political expert," he said. "But I believe that as the Nicaraguan government moves toward declassification and it and the contras fulfill the peace agreements, the time will come when the two (Nicaragua and the United States) will sit down face to face." "Remember that the same was said about the (contra) peace talks. Remember how the government here said the stars would fall from the sky before any talks. It is a wise man that changes his mind."

### Blind, deformed children abandoned

PEKING (R) — Railway authorities have opened an official register of abandoned babies after 38 infants were found in Peking's main train station last year, the newspaper Life News said Monday. It said most of the babies found by station staff were blind, deformed or retarded and were believed to have been left by peasant parents who hoped the children would be well brought up in the relatively affluent capital. Last week, another Chinese newspaper said 25 homeless beggars had died of cold, hunger or illness in a 15-month period in the waiting rooms of Peking's second largest railway station, in a rare official report on destitution in the capital.

### Mozambique needs 900,000 tonnes of food

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — The government said it needs more than 900,000 tonnes of food aid over the next 12 months to feed almost 6 million people affected by war and drought, the national news agency AIM reported Sunday. The announcement by the Ministry of Trade's Food Security Department came on the eve of a United Nations-sponsored donors conference to be held Tuesday and Wednesday in Maputo. The 42 governments and donor organisations participating in the conference are to make financial pledges for food assistance to Mozambique.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "هذا من الاصل"